# CALENDAR OF LETTERS

FROM

## THE MAYOR & CORPORATION

OF

## THE CITY OF LONDON

A. D. 1350 — 1370.

ENROLLED & PRESERVED AMONG

THE ARCHIVES OF THE CORPORATION

AT THE GUILDHALL

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17 October 1885

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THE ARCHIVES OF THE CORPORATION

AT THE GUILDHALL.

EDITED (WITH AN INTRODUCTION) BY

REGINALD R. SHARPE, D.C.L.,

OF ST. JOHN'S COLL., OXFORD; RECORDS CLERK IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

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# INTRODUCTION.

THE letters which are here shortly set out are inscribed on two rolls preserved, among other records of the Corporation of the City of London, in the Town Clerk's Office at the Guildhall. They are enrolled, as will be seen, under the names of the various Mayors during whose term of office they were dispatched, and comprise a very brief period only, viz., A.D. 1350—1370, and this not without a considerable hiatus, viz., A.D. 1360 — 1363 *circa*. The rolls themselves contain twenty-nine and ten membranes respectively, which, however, are not stitched together in strict chronological order. Attention had been drawn to the earlier of the rolls at least so far back as the year 1869, but the existence of the later (and smaller) roll was not discovered till some years afterwards. Both of them were in a dilapidated state till very recently, when they were placed, by direction of the Guildhall Library Committee, in the custody of Alfred Kingston, Esq., of the Public Record Office, who kindly undertook to see them carefully repaired. No other roll of a similar character has since come to light, although it would, perhaps, be too much to say that there might not be others lying still unobserved somewhere among the numerous and yet uncalendared rolls in the possession of the City of London. Be that as it may, it was not thought desirable to delay any longer the printing an abstract of such letters as were contained in the two rolls already discovered, and thus to render their contents more accessible to the literary public; and accordingly the Library Committee made a recommendation to that effect to the Court of Common Council in July, 1883, and obtained permission to carry the same into execution.

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It is not necessary here to enter at any length upon the different subjects embraced by these letters. The letters speak for themselves, and serve to show, in greater relief, perhaps, than most extant records of the same period, the status of the City of London towards the latter half of the fourteenth century and its intercourse with the chief towns of Flanders and various municipalities at home.

Notwithstanding the fact that King Edward III. had in the twenty-seventh year of his reign removed the staple of wool from the Flemish town of Bruges to the English towns of Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Exeter, Winchester, Bristol, Lincoln, York, Norwich, Newcastle, and Hull for England; to Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and Drogheda for Ireland; and to Carmarthen for Wales; still we find among these letters a larger proportion addressed to the municipal authorities of Bruges than of any other town either at home or abroad: a significant proof of the difficulty that always besets an attempt to turn the tide of commerce into other channels by arbitrary means. As a matter of history we know that it was found necessary to repeal a part of this Act in 1360, and that Calais still remained a staple till finally suppressed in 1369. An Act of Parliament* passed in that year confined the staple of wool for the future to the following English ports, viz., Newcastle, Hull, Boston, Yarmouth, Queenborough, Westminster, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter, and Bristol† (the staples for Ireland and Wales being left as before), and whilst prohibiting all denizens to export any staple goods on pain of forfeiture of vessel and cargo, besides imprisonment for a term of three years, permitted alien merchants to carry their merchandise to any port whatever.

By far the larger portion of the letters consists of applications made by the City of London to the authorities of provincial towns to restore what had been taken by way of custom or toll from citizens of London travelling with their merchandise. By charter of Henry I. it had been expressly declared that the citizens of

* Statute 43 Edward III. cap. 1.

† Anderson's 'Origin of Commerce,' Dublin, 1790, vol. i. pp. 438, 468; Macpherson's 'Annals of Commerce,' vol. i. p. 576.

London should be "quit and free, and all their goods, throughout England and the ports of the sea, of and from all toll and passage and lestage, and all other customs," and, further, that "if any shall take toll or custom of any citizen of London, the citizens of London shall take of the borough or town where toll or custom was so taken so much as the man of London gave for toll and as he received damage thereby." This exemption from toll and right of *withernam*, as it was called, were subsequently confirmed by other sovereigns, and appear from these letters to have been at this period in active force. The request thus made for the restoration of custom illegally taken usually concluded with the hint that unless the request were complied with, measures would be taken to annoy the citizens of the offending town when they had occasion to repair to the City of London. If little attention were paid to the first application, another letter (called an *alias*), and often a third (called a *pluries*), were dispatched, repeating even more peremptorily the request for justice to be done to the citizen of London who had thus suffered, until finally, and as a last resort, *withernam** was formally granted against the offenders, and a precept issued to the Sheriffs of London to carry it out.

Next to these letters in point of numbers come those addressed by the Corporation of London to other towns, demanding the surrender of apprentices who, after being duly bound in the City of London to serve their masters for a fixed term, had run away and taken refuge within their walls.

Apprentices were, and still are, enrolled in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, and before the Chamberlain; and it was necessary that such enrolment should be made within the first year of the apprenticeship, otherwise the apprentice might be discharged. By the custom of the City an apprentice bound to a freeman must be above fourteen and under twenty-one years of age when bound, and must not be bound for a less term than seven years.† If he should have been bound for any longer term, and duly

* *Vide* I. 45, 46, 159, pp. 103, 106.

† The question has been raised whether an apprentice by the custom of London is compellable to serve after he has arrived at the age of twenty-

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enrolled, he was compelled, says Bohun,* to serve the full term, and could not be discharged from his master after seven years' service unless for a very reasonable cause. The same authority states that if a master refused to make his apprentice free when the time of his indentures had expired, such apprentice might force his master to make him free by summoning him before the Court of Aldermen or before the Chamberlain of London for the time being.† When an apprentice purposed suing out his indentures, he did so by petition to the Lord Mayor's Court.‡ This method of becoming a freeman of the City of London, viz., by apprenticeship or servitude, was one of the most ancient and, at the same time, one of the most useful processes for obtaining permission to carry on a trade within the liberties of the City, since all persons not free of the City, denominated "foreigners" or "strangers" (as was originally the case also at Rome§), were debarred for many centuries from carrying on trade within the City, either as wholesale or retail dealers.

Besides these letters relating to apprentices, there are others requesting the restoration of goods and chattels of citizens of London travelling through the country for commercial purposes, which had been seized on suspicion by bailiffs of provincial towns as having been unlawfully acquired; there are also certi-

one years. *Vide* John William Eden's case, Law Reports, 2 Maule and Selwyn, 226, where it was decided that a return to a *Habeas Corpus* for the discharge of an apprentice above the age of twenty-one (stating the custom of London that every citizen and freeman of the City may take as an apprentice any person above the age of fourteen and under twenty-one to serve for seven years and more) must show that the apprentice was within those ages when he bound himself apprentice, for the Court will not intend that from matters *dehors* the return. The Court refused leave to amend the return.

* 'Privilegia Londini,' p. 343.

† Ibid. p. 343.

‡ A large number of these petitions, dating back to the time of James I., are still preserved at the Guildhall, whereby apprentices seek to be released from their indentures because their masters had failed to enrol their indentures within the proper time, or for ill-treatment at their masters' hands, or for not properly teaching them their respective trades.

§ *Cf.* Cicero 'De Officiis,' i. 12: "Equidem illud etiam animadverto, quod, qui proprio nomine perduellis esset, is hostis vocaretur, lenitate verbi tristitiam rei mitigatam. Hostis enim, apud majores nostros, is dicebatur, quem nunc peregrinum dicimus."

ficates of births, deaths, and marriages, as well as of ships' arrivals in the port of London; letters testimonial and of safe conduct, manifests of ships' cargoes, powers of attorney, and other communications, all of more or less interest.

If great restrictions were placed upon "foreigners" (*i.e.* non-freemen) remaining for any length of time and trafficking within the liberties of the City of London, they, on the other hand, enjoyed almost a monopoly of the carrying trade at the time these letters were written, and obtained privileges from the Crown denied to citizens. Indeed, it appears that until the reign of Henry VIII. they engrossed the whole external trade of the country.* The citizens of London, whilst looking upon them with somewhat of a jealous eye, could not but encourage the foreigners who thus brought merchandise to their port for their trade depended upon it; but at the same time they can hardly be blamed if they took measures to ensure such trade as came within their jurisdiction passing exclusively through their own hands. To this end they compelled the foreigner to sell by bulk or in gross, and then only to citizens and within forty days, and after exacting a tax for the liberty of trading at all, towards the support of the burdens of the town.

The commodities which these letters show to have been at this period chiefly imported and exported were wool, corn, wine, and timber. Upon almost all of these a restriction either as to importation or exportation was imposed at various times, besides regulations as to when, where, and at what price they should be sold after they had arrived within the City of London. It is scarcely credible at the present day that in 1359 a statute was passed prohibiting the exportation of corn to any foreign parts except Calais and Gascony;† and that it was not till ten years later that any native

* "The removal of the privileges of the Steelyard Company in 1520 marked an epoch when the merchants of England should no longer depend on foreign ships and mariners" (Doyle's 'The English in America,' p. 43). An attempt, however, had been made by Richard II. to encourage merchant shipping in England by a statute passed in the fifth year of his reign, enacting that the importation of wines should be effected in English ships only; and this was afterwards confirmed by statute 23 Henry VIII. cap. 7.

† Statute 34 Edward III. cap. 20.

of England, Ireland, or Wales, not being an artificer, was permitted to go to Gascony to buy wines, and then only under such restrictions that it is a marvel that any one availed himself of the licence.*

These letters further testify to the importance of the herring industry in England at this time, more especially at Yarmouth and Kirkley. This, like other branches of commerce, however, was also regulated by statute,† which limited and defined the order and time of bringing and selling herring at Yarmouth Fair, provided against their price being enhanced, fixed the number represented by a hundred of herring to be six score, and by a last to be ten thousand, and among other ordinances enacted that the ships called "Pykers"‡ should freely buy fresh herring, in Kirkley and elsewhere, without impeachment or disturbance of the hostelers of Yarmouth or of any other, so always that no more herring be discharged in Kirkley road out of the fishers' ships than might reasonably suffice for charging the "Pykers," and that the fishers be compelled to bring all the remnant of their herring to the fair at Yarmouth to sell there, so that none sell herring in any place about the haven of Yarmouth by seven miles. Lastly, it ordained that these regulations should apply to all the towns of England where herring were caught and dried.

It was probably due to the herring fisheries, and to the fact that great quantities of wool were shipped from that port to Brabant, Flanders, and Holland, that the town of Yarmouth figured in the first complete roll of the English fleet, ordered to be made in 1347 by Edward III., as having supplied the largest number of vessels.§ It must be borne in mind that at that period, as also for a long time subsequently, the English fleets were composed almost entirely of merchant ships, and that it was by vessels of this description that the seas were patrolled and protection afforded to commerce against

* Statute 43 Edward III. cap. 2.

† 31 Edward III. stat. 2, called "The Statute of Herrings" (Macpherson's 'Annals of Commerce,' vol. i. p. 556).

‡ Small vessels belonging to London and other places employed in carrying fish.

§ *Vide* Lindsay's 'History of Merchant Shipping,' vol. i. p. 411. The list is printed in Macpherson's 'Annals of Commerce,' vol. i. pp. 534–5.

the attacks of pirates* who infested the North Sea and English Channel. So terrible had the state of the highway of the sea become that there were certain expeditions on which it was quite impossible to venture except in such numbers as to defy attack.†

It was the custom for merchants of England, Scotland, and Wales to go to Bordeaux for wine once a year, and in order the better to resist the attacks of pirates, who were frequently on the look-out to waylay them, they made the voyage at the same time, for the sake of each other's company and protection. The number of these vessels thus crossing the sea was frequently enormous.‡ The members of the fleet were obliged to support each other in case of attack, and if any loss were sustained owing to the flight of some of the company, the fugitives were compelled to make it good.§ These letters bring before us a case‖ where the master of a ship which had been freighted with a valuable cargo in Flanders had received peremptory orders *not to leave port until certain other large English vessels were prepared to sail with him to London.* In contravention of these orders, however, he appears to have set sail on his own account, probably with a view to appropriating the cargo to his own use, for nothing was heard of him for some time, when at last he was found at Southampton, to the Mayor and Bailiffs of which town request is made for his arrest. As another instance of the piratical tendencies of the Flemings we may adduce another letter here enrolled,¶ where the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of

* A confederacy of North Sea pirates, called *Vitaliani*, are said to have seized Bergen about the year 1348 with all its merchandise and inhabitants (including English merchants), and to have returned to Germany with their booty (Anderson's 'Origin of Commerce,' vol. i. p. 427).

† "Les navires ne naviguaient point, comme aujourd'hui, isolément. Si les routes de terre étaient peu sûres, la mer présentait encore bien moins de securité; et, de même que l'on ne saurait songer a franchir le désert autrement qu'en caravane, il n'y avait qu'une flotte qui pût affronter les perils de la traversée." Michel, 'Hist. du Commerce et de la Navigation à Bordeaux,' vol. i. p. 52.

‡ "This year [viz., A.D. 1350] 1,350 vessels sailed from Bordeaux, loaded with 13,429 tuns of wine, being nearly 100 tuns in each vessel on an average." Macpherson, vol. i. p. 541.

§ Michel, vol. i. p. 56.

‖ I. 136.

¶ I. 212.

London complain to the Bailiff and good folk of the town of "Neweport," in Flanders, that a ship belonging to John Lovekyn, a citizen of London, whilst sailing with a cargo of red herring from Great Yarmouth to the port of London, had been seized off the port of "Orewelle" in a time of peace by one Clays Cleward, sailing in a ship of "Neweport," and been carried no one knew whither.

Of the pirates of Brittany we have a description given us in the 'Libel of English Policie,'* not in any way complimentary to them :—

"And of this Britaine, who so trueth louis,
Are the greatest rouers and the greatest theeuis,
That haue bene in the sea many one yeere :
That our Marchants haue bought full dere."

One mode of obtaining redress when all other means failed was by inducing the king to grant letters of marque to the aggrieved individual, and to let him take the law into his own hand and help himself, much in the same way as we find *withernam* granted by the City of London to those who had failed otherwise to obtain satisfaction for an injury inflicted on land by a provincial town. Of this we have an instance in the 'Libel' just quoted. After describing the efforts made by Edward III. to induce the Duke of Brittany to restrain the marauding habits of his subjects, it proceeds thus :—

"But when the king anon had taken heede ;
Hee in his herte set a judgment,
Without calling of any Parliament,
Or great tarry to take long aduise
To fortifie anon he did deuise
Of English Townes three, that is to say,
Dertemouth, Plymouth, the third it is Fowey :
And gaue hem helpe and notable puisance
With insistence set them in gouernance
Vpon pety Bretayne for to werre."†

As another proof in these letters of the dangers which beset voyagers in the English Channel, or "the narrowe see" as it is called in the 'Libel,' we find that in 1364 the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London had occasion to inform the high and noble Monsieur "Baudreyn de la Heuse,"‡ Admiral of France, and the authorities

* *Temp.* Henry V. *circa;* printed in Hakluyt's 'Voyages,' vol. i. p. 210.

† Hakluyt's 'Voyages,' vol. i. p. 211.

‡ Among those deputed guardians of the truce made in 1357 between Edward III. and the King of France by the mediation of Cardinal Talleyrand

of the towns of Rouen, Harfleur, Caen, and Bayeux,* of an outrage committed by certain seamen of Normandy, called "billecokes claybakes," and others, who had captured a ship laden with white tin from Cornwall,† and had divided the spoil among themselves. For this act of piracy, which had taken place off Portland, compensation was demanded, with what result we are not told.

So also in 1353 the king issued a writ to the Sheriff of London to publicly proclaim that inasmuch as he had learnt that much damage had been inflicted upon his subjects since the commencement of the truce between him and his adversary of France, and that pirates and other enemies occupied the sea for the purpose of waylaying his vessels with which he purposed crossing to France, all vessels of the port of London which were prepared, or were being prepared, to cross to Gascony for wine, should assemble at the port of "Chalcheford,"‡ thence to be conveyed to France by his own

and Cardinal St. Vital, we find "Le Baudra de la Heuse," "Le Baili de Cauxut," and others appointed especially for Normandy, to act on behalf of France, and the nominee of Philip of Navarre on behalf of England. Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 350.

* I. 207.

† The Phœnicians are supposed to have carried on a trade in tin with Cornwall and the Cassiterides or Scilly Isles at least as early as the year 500 B.C., on the evidence of Herodotus, who mentions the islands thus:—οὔτε νήσους οἶδα Κασσιτερίδας ἐούσας, ἐκ τῶν ὁ κασσίτερος ἡμῖν φοιτᾷ.....ἐξ ἐσχάτης δ' ὧν ὅ τε κασσίτερος ἡμῖν φοιτᾷ (iii. 115). He, however, confesses doubt as to their existence in the absence of eye-witnesses from the west of Europe. The name is said still to be preserved in *Cassiter Street* in Bodmin. Mr. Elton, on the other hand (in his 'Origins of English History,' p. 9, note), unhesitatingly declares that "the island Cassitera must of course have been in the Straits of Malacca, the source of our modern supplies." In the year 1348 the merchants and others complained to the Parliament that all the tin of Cornwall was bought and exported by Tidman of Limburgh, and no Englishman could get any of it. They therefore prayed that it might be freely sold to all merchants. But they received for answer that it was a profit belonging to the Prince, and every lord might make his profit of his own (Macpherson, 'Annals of Commerce,' vol. i. p. 537). Perhaps the cause of Tidman of Limburgh enjoying this monopoly may be in some way connected with the fact that this individual is named in Rymer with three others, merchants of Almaine, as having taken in pledge the regal or great crown of England for certain sums of money due to them by the king, and with whom the king had, in 1344, come to some arrangement for its redemption ('Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 7).

‡ Also written "Chalchesord."

fleet, which had been ordered to the same place. This writ is recorded in the archives* of the City of London, with a memorandum that the original was in the hands of John de Stodeye, who was at that time one of the Sheriffs.

By about the middle of the fourteenth century, however, we find the Hanseatic League becoming so powerful at sea that they were in a position not only to scour the Baltic and North Seas of all pirates, for the protection of their goods, but also to enter upon a war with the King of Denmark for demanding toll from their vessels passing the Sound. We find also at this period a statute† made expressly to enable those merchants who had been robbed at sea, and whose goods so taken had found their way into England, to recover the same upon producing reasonable proof of ownership, and enacting that goods thrown on the shore by shipwreck should be restored to the lawful owners upon payment of a reasonable salvage, to be assessed by the Sheriffs or Bailiffs of the place.

One of these letters‡ affords us a practical illustration of the law of wreck at this time. It appears that one of two barrels of "greywerk," which had been put on board a ship at Bruges by Henry Ilyngham, a Hanse merchant, had been found on the foreshore belonging to some lord (name unknown), and been claimed by him as "wrak," *in the belief that all on board had perished.* Evidence having been brought before the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London as to the ownership of the property, and also to the fact that *none on board the ship had perished*, they desired that the same should be given up. We at once understand the full meaning of this if we turn to a letter§ addressed by Edward III. to Ralph Spigurnel, admiral, commanding him to give up a vessel belonging to the Bishop of Aberdeen, which, with two men and a cargo of merchandise on board, had broken from its moorings near Aberdeen, and been driven by stress of weather to Great Yarmouth; and the reason for this surrender is given in these words: "Quia secundum legem et con-

* Letter Book G, fol. 11.
† 27 Edward III. stat. 2, cap. 13.
‡ I. 213.
§ Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part ii. p. 766.

suetudinem regni nostri, navis aliqua, in quâ aliquod animal vivens inventum fuerit, seu bona in navi illâ existentia, wreccum non sunt, nec dici poterunt."

There are occasional references to the war* which was being intermittently carried on between England and France, as, *e.g.*, an interesting letter† addressed by Pope Innocent VI. to Charles IV., Emperor of the Romans, begging him to use his influence with the King of England and the Prince of Wales to effect the liberation of King John of France, who had been taken prisoner at the battle of Poitiers‡ and conveyed to London. It is not clear how this letter came to be here enrolled. It is not printed in Rymer's 'Fœdera,' where, however, a letter from the King of England to the Emperor is to be found, acknowledging the receipt of two letters from him, and declaring how gratified he would be if, by means of the Emperor's mediation, a peace were to be effected.§ An insight also is afforded us into certain fraudulent conversions of moneys received on behalf of the ransom of the King of France by a letter‖ addressed by John Pecche, Mayor of the City of London, to all Justices or their Lieutenants (in France), desiring them to certify under their seals the names of those liable for contribution to the King's ransom and the respective amounts, as it was understood that large sums had been collected in their country which had not been accounted for; as well as by a subsequent letter of protection¶ granted by the same Mayor to one John de Ville, clerk of the Queen Dowager of France, who was suspected of malversation in this particular.

The interdependence or affiliation existing between municipal boroughs in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries has hitherto

* I. 144, 145, 204.

† I. 250.

‡ An account of this battle is given in a letter from the Prince of Wales himself addressed to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London, inscribed in Letter Book G of the City Records, fol. 53 *b*, a translation of which is given in Riley's 'Memorials,' p. 285.

§ Vol. iii. part i. p. 343.

‖ I. 252.

¶ I. 273. It will be seen that both these letters are enrolled out of their proper place.

scarcely received that amount of attention to which such an important subject seems entitled. Most of those who have devoted themselves to the early history of corporations have contented themselves with giving scarcely more than a passing notice to the similarity of laws and customs of certain boroughs, and to franchises and privileges granted to one town identical with those granted to another. This point, however, has not been lost sight of by Dr. Charles Gross, who, in a very able dissertation on the Guild Merchant,* remarks as follows:—"Wenn man die Geschichte des mittelalterlichen Städtewesens der verschiedenen Culturvölker Europas vergleicht, so findet man überraschend viele Züge von Familienähnlichkeit. Dies gilt auch in mancher Beziehung von England." To which he adds the following note:—"Ich will bloss auf einen solchen Zug hinweisen, nämlich die Filialverhältnisse zwischen den Gerichten der verschiedenen Städte. In dieser Beziehung war es in England im Wesentlichen so bestellt wie in Deutschland, Frankreich, und Flandern"; and refers his readers to the Archæological "Journal,"† vol. xxvii. pp. 460 *seq.*, for "einige gute Beispiele von Appellation der einen Stadt an die andere."‡

Turning to this passage, we find an application from a town in Wales to the municipal authorities of Hereford for a certificate of such privileges and customs as existed in the latter town; and in answer to this application a statement of the various franchises and customs enjoyed by the burgesses of Hereford is set out at length for its behoof. The customs and privileges of Hereford were the standard authority for those of many towns in Wales and on the border; it became necessary, therefore, for a town which had lately become enfranchised and entitled to enjoy the same privileges as those of the

* 'Gilda Mercatoria, ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Englischen Städteverfassung' (Göttingen, 1883), p. 70.

† Mistake for *Journal of the British Archæological Association.*

‡ For an exhaustive treatment of this subject the reader is referred to an article by the same writer which is about to appear in the next number of the *Antiquary*, and a proof of which the editor of these letters has been kindly allowed to see. Dr. Gross there shows that London became, as it were, the parent (directly or indirectly) of no less than twenty-seven municipalities, these having laws and customs based upon those enjoyed by the citizens of the metropolis.

citizens of Hereford to apply for a certificate as to the nature of those privileges.

In these letters we have another instance of a similar kind. The charters granted to the towns of Oxford, Exeter, Gloucester, and others conferred on their burgesses the same privileges and customs as those enjoyed by the citizens of London ;* it need not be a matter for surprise, therefore, if we find these towns occasionally sending to the City of London to inquire about this or that custom as practised in the metropolis. An application of this kind had evidently been made in or about the year 1357 by the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town of Oxford to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, asking for information respecting certain customs of the City of London, and more especially the manner of holding Pleas of Land in its Court of Hustings, and the reply sent on this occasion is enrolled among these letters.†

It is noteworthy that the charter granted to the burgesses of Oxford by Henry III., unlike those granted to the other towns just mentioned, expressly declared that whenever any dispute or doubt should arise in any judgment as to what they ought to do, they should send messengers to London, and that what the citizens of London should decide thereon should be held firm and established.‡

Another certificate of custom, namely, as to assizes of *fresh force* and *mort d'ancestor* pleaded within the City of London, is also here enrolled§ as having been sent by the Mayor and Aldermen, but (unfortunately) it does not appear to whom.

Other letters show similarity of franchises existing in corporations situated far apart. Thus we find the City of Dublin claiming for its citizens exemption from payment of tonnage dues in London, and threatening to seize the goods of a citizen of London in retaliation

* Cf. City Records, 'Liber Custumarum' (Master of the Rolls Series), part ii. pp. 667, 672, and Madox, 'Firma Burgi,' p. 134.

† I. 198.

‡ "Et si dubitaverint vel contenderint de judicio aliquo quod facere debeant de hoc Londonias mittant nuntios suos; et quod Londonienses inde judicabunt, firmum et ratum habeant." 'Liber Custumarum' (Master of the Rolls Series), vol. ii. p. 672.

§ I. 228.

for such dues exacted from its merchants: to which the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London sent a reply* to the effect that it was true that by writ of the King, enrolled in the Remembrances of the City of London,† the merchants of the City of Dublin were allowed to pass and repass quit of "murage," "pavage," "pontage," and "kayage" (*charges which citizens of London were equally exempt from paying when travelling with their merchandise*), but that there was no record exempting them from "tonnage," which formed part of the ferm due to the King by the citizens of London.

Once more, the Mayor of the City of London writes to the Burgomasters and Echevins of Bruges,‡ desiring them to see justice done to two sisters, orphans, against whom a third sister had brought an action to recover a share of the tenements possessed by their deceased father in the town of Bruges, notwithstanding that the said sister, having been already advanced by her father upon her marriage, possessed no legal right to the said tenements, which ought to remain to the other two daughters, *according to the laws and customs of Bruges, as was understood.*

That a custom very similar to, if not altogether identical with, this custom, prevailed also in the City of London, whereby the advancement of children on their marriage in certain cases barred any further claim to the father's customary estate, has been shown in a note appended to this letter by the editor.

Lastly, let us consider for a moment the relationship which existed between England and the Court of Rome at the period when these letters were written. It will be remembered that nearly fifty years previously, after violent quarrels between Philip the Fair of France and Pope Boniface VIII., the residence of the Popes had at length, during the Papacy of Clement V.,§ been removed from Rome,

* I. 166.

† Letter Book F, fol. 31*b*.

‡ II. 46.

§ "Hic quoque Clemens primus omnium papalem sedem de Roma usque Avinionam transtulit." Higden's 'Polychron.' (Master of the Rolls Series), vol. viii. p. 294. In the introduction to the above work (p. xi) the year 1309 is given as the time when Clement left Rome for Avignon, where he and his successors resided without interruption for a period of seventy years.

first to Lyons and then to Avignon. This, it was supposed, was done at the bidding of the King of France, by whose influence Clement had been elected. Seventy years are said to have elapsed, which acquired the name of the "Babylonish Captivity,"* before a move was made back to Rome again; but this estimate can scarcely be strictly accurate, unless what Walsingham says be true, namely, that no Pope had been seen in Rome since the time of Boniface VIII. He chronicles the migration and return under the year A.D. 1367 thus:—"Eodem anno circa principium mensis Maii, Papa Urbanus Quintus de Aniviona [*sic*], cum plena curia, se transtulit versus Romam; quo circa festum Sancti Lucæ Evangelistæ sanus pervenit et summo cum honore ab omnibus est receptus; quia a tempore Papæ Bonefacii Octavi ibidem visus fuerat Papa nullus."†

It was when the Pope was thus residing at Avignon that a gross fraud was attempted to be practised, as appears from a letter here enrolled,‡ upon the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London by Nicholas Hethe, who had given out that he was on more intimate terms with the Holy Father at Avignon than any other person of the English nation, and on the strength of his promising to obtain bulls of absolution for the whole City of London had received the sum of forty livres from Andrew Aubrey, a citizen of London, and probably the same who was soon afterwards Mayor. He was ordered at once to refund the money unless he could get the bulls of absolution in the precise form sent to him by the Corporation of London; and a strong intimation was at the same time given him that unless he acted honourably in the matter steps would be taken to represent him in his true light to the Holy Father, and that he would be proceeded against according to law. Nothing more is heard of him in these letters, although we find him represented elsewhere§ as being in difficulties, owing a large sum to the King, and as having at one time secretly left

* Longman's 'Life and Times of Edward III.,' vol. i. pp. 66, 137.

† Walsingham, 'Hist. Anglicana' (Master of the Rolls Series), vol. i. p. 306.

‡ I. 15.

§ Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 255, and Letters, p. 8, note *.

the country without payment of it. The King appears to have dealt very leniently towards him, being content, even after his once escaping from custody, to place him on parole, and not long afterwards he set him entirely free, after taking security, be it added, for the sum of money due. This was in 1353. In 1364 a Nicholas Hethe again turns up, under circumstances which scarcely leave any room for doubt as to his identity. He is styled in a bull addressed by Pope Urban V. to Edward III.* a canon of the Church of Lichfield,† and is represented as complaining of two of his benefices having been unjustly kept from him. It may be noticed that this was a very similar claim to that put forward by him more than ten years before, which he was at that time compelled to renounce.

The year 1350 was a year of jubilee at Rome, and the numbers that left England for that city on this occasion may be gathered from the licences granted to them by the King and to be found in Rymer,‡ which allowed them, notwithstanding the general prohibition against taking money out of the kingdom except for commercial purposes, to take with them as much gold as was requisite for their reasonable expenses. It was during his absence at Rome to keep this jubilee that Cesario, Bishop of Sancta Maria de Rosis, appears, from one of these letters,§ to have been unfortunate enough to lose some valuable documents (including a bull of confirmation by Pope Clement VI.) by fire, owing to the negligence of his servant, to which fact the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London bear witness by letters patent under their Common Seal.

It is just possible that it was on this occasion, and in this the twenty-third year of Edward III. (and not, as represented in certain

* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part ii. p. 736.

† It is stated in Le Neve's 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ' that a Nicholas "Hethe" was collated to a prebendal stall in Lichfield Cathedral December 16th, 1360; and also that a Nicholas "Heth" is said to have held a similar stall in the same cathedral October 30th, 1376 (vol. i. pp. 618, 630).

‡ 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 203.

§ I. 52.

letters patent under the seal of the Mayoralty,* the thirty-third), that Richard Maury, Abbot of Middleton or Milton Abbots, journeying to the Court of Rome, arrived at the City of London, and there bought a bill of exchange on Rome, in payment for which he tendered certain pieces of money, which the money-changers declined to accept as genuine. The servant of the abbot having about the same time purchased a horse in West Smithfield, and the money which he paid to the vendor also proving to be bad, steps were taken in the Mayor's Court against the abbot, on his return from abroad, for being in possession of a quantity of base coin, the prosecutor avowing his belief that it had been manufactured by the abbot himself,† or else had been brought by him into England from distant parts, as (added he) was very probable. It appears, however, that the abbot had friends at Court, for an order was sent to the Mayor and Sheriff, just as the trial was about to come on, to bring him and his case before the King himself and his Council, which, we are told, was accordingly done.

In 1351 the Statute of Provisors was passed in Parliament, which again asserted the rights of the English Church, and rendered it penal to procure any presentations from the Court of Rome, thus securing the rights of patrons and electors, which had been extremely encroached upon by the Pope. But resistance to "provisors" brought new vexations. The patrons and electors who in the name of the law withstood a Papal nominee were summoned to defend them-

* I. 202.

† Some abbots, *e.g.*, the abbots of Bury St. Edmunds, of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and (perhaps) also of Cirencester, had the privilege of coining money, but it does not appear that the abbot mentioned here enjoyed that privilege (*vide* Ruding's 'Annals of the Coinage of Britain,' vol. iii. pp. 34, 44, 129). By a statute 25 Edward III., stat. 5, cap. 2, counterfeiting the king's coin, or bringing into the realm counterfeit coin, was made treason; and accordingly Ralph Marshall, Abbot of Missenden (co. Bucks), who had been convicted of coining and clipping groats and sterlings in the manor of Lee, was condemned to be drawn and hanged, but received the King's pardon (Ruding, vol. i. p. 444, note). Nor were abbots the only ecclesiastics to whom the right of coining money was granted by the Crown, for the same privilege was enjoyed, at different times, by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, as well as the Bishop of Durham and others.

selves in the Papal Court; and the question of the supremacy of the Papal law over the law of the land put into the shade all questions of minor importance. The pretension of the Pope was met in 1353 by a statute* which forbade any questioning of judgments in the King's Courts, and enacted that any one of the King's subjects who should draw any out of the realm on a plea whereof the cognizance pertained to the King's Courts, or should sue in any other court to defeat or impeach the judgments given in the King's Courts, should render himself liable to outlawry, imprisonment, and forfeiture of lands and goods. This Act subsequently developed into the well-known statute of *Præmunire*, passed in the reign of Richard II. The Papacy still retained, however, a great deal of its former influence in England, and in 1364 we find the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London recommending† to the favour of Pope Urban V. one Robert Pynk, a provincial prior of the Dominican Order, who had for more than twenty years been engaged in preaching the Word of God in their city, and was about to present himself before his Holiness on some matter of business. In the following year (so obstinately did the Papacy continue to assert itself in England) Edward appealed to Parliament. "Complaints," he said, "were constantly being made by his subjects to the Pope as to matters which were cognizable in the King's Courts." The practice of "provisors" was thus maintained in spite of the laws, and "the laws, usages, ancient customs, and franchises of the kingdom were thereby much hindered, the King's crown degraded, and his person defamed." This appeal met with a hearty response from Parliament, and the statutes against "provisors" and appeals were solemnly confirmed.‡

How close the connexion still remained between England and the Court of Rome is illustrated by a letter§ addressed by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Patriarch of Aquileia in 1368, informing him that a suit which had been commenced before

* 27 Edward III. stat. 1, cap. 1.

† I. 241.

‡ Green's 'History of the English People,' vol. i. pp. 443-4.

§ II. 48.

them for debt had been stayed till further notice by order of the King's Chancellor, as he had heard that another action for the same debt was pending in the Court of Rome.

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Let us now say a few words as to the character of the rolls themselves. How comes it that these are the only rolls of the kind hitherto discovered among the archives of the Corporation, and that even these are manifestly incomplete? We may, perhaps, find an answer to these questions if we consider the probable origin of the rolls; by whom the letters were in all likelihood enrolled; and the place where such records would ordinarily be deposited.

From the fact that by far the greater portion of these letters emanate from the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, and are under the seal of the Mayoralty,* one is led to believe that they issued either from what is now spoken of as the Mayor's Court (more accurately described as the Court of the Mayor and Aldermen, held in the *Utter* or Outer Court), or else from the Mayor and Aldermen sitting in the *Inner* Court as the Court of Aldermen. Both these Courts were Courts of record. What seal (if any) the Court of Aldermen (as such, sitting in the *Inner* Court) were in the habit of using is uncertain; but from an act of Common Council passed in the time of Elizabeth†—whereby it was enacted and ordained that thenceforth no examination or deposition for any matter in question between party and party, either on this side the seas or beyond, or to be taken *in perpetuam rei memoriam* or otherwise, nor any exemplification or certificate whatsoever, whereunto the seal of the office of Mayoralty of the City should be fixed or had been accustomed to be fixed, should

* This seal was publicly destroyed by the Chamberlain, as being too small and unbecoming the dignity of the City, in 1381, and a new seal delivered to William Walworth the Mayor, to use the same according as his office of the Mayoralty should demand and require (City Records, Letter Book H, fol. 132).

† 1 August, anno 22 Eliz. (City Records, Journal 21, fol. 61).

be taken or done except only by the Common Clerk, and by one of the four sworn attorneys of the Lord Mayor's Court, such as the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen for the time being should adjudge and think most fit for the same—it is evident that in later times the Court of Aldermen had no small control over the seal of the Mayor's Court.

The Mayor and Aldermen not infrequently for the more important matters of the Corporation used also the Common Seal* in early times, and a few instances are to be found among these letters† of such a practice, but in most cases where a letter is said to have been under the Common Seal the writers are described as the Mayor, Aldermen, and *Commonalty*.

Internal and external evidence tends to show that these letters form part of the records of the Mayor's Court rather than those of the Court of Aldermen. Questions relating to apprentices and orphans, letters of safe conduct, letters testimonial and requisitional, manifests of ships' cargoes, and certificates of the freedom of the City in order to claim exemption from toll, form the subject of the larger portion of the letters, and these also were matters chiefly, if not entirely, within the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court.

One at least of the two rolls was discovered among Mayor's Court records deposited in the Town Clerk's Office. How these records came to be there is to be explained by the fact that the Town Clerk for the time being—or, as he was formerly called, the Common Clerk (and sometimes Secretary) of the City of London—

* In the fifth year of the reign of King Edward II. the citizens presented a petition against the Mayor and Aldermen using the Common Seal without the assent of the Commonalty having been previously obtained, and prayed that the Common Seal might in future remain in a certain chest under six locks, whereof three Aldermen should have each a key, and three good men of the Commonalty should have the other three keys (City Records, Letter Book D, fol. 145*b*). Also among the ordinances for the good government of the City agreed to by the Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens, and submitted to King Edward II. for his approval in the twelfth year of his reign, there was one placing the Common Seal in the custody of two Aldermen and of two others, commoners, to be chosen for this purpose by the Commonalty.

† *E.g.* I. 246, II. 52 and 73. It was not thought necessary to state in every case the nature of the seal whenever recorded in the rolls.

had always acted as Registrar of the Mayor's Court down to the beginning of the present century.* Under him, to assist in the transaction of the business of the Court, were one or more clerks (also called attorneys), whose appointment and dismissal were in former days left to his discretion.† In 1464 the number of these clerks was limited to four;‡ and their respective duties, as established prior to 1537, may be gathered from the rules and orders which were made in that year for the future regulation of the Court:— "Hereaft' foloweth yn articles y^e^ seuerall offices & rowmes of y^e^ iiij clerkes and atto^r^neys of my lorde mayers co^r^te & what they haue used sev'ally to doo. And agreed by thys Co^r^te to be obs'uyd & kept as hereafter ensuyth."§

It was found that the youngest clerk had always been the clerk of orphans, and made all calendars for orphanage, and entered all recognizances and discharges of the said recognizances; he had also entered into the Journal all acts of Common Council, decrees, proclamations, and precepts, and all other things necessary to be entered for the business of the City.

The second clerk in office (*i.e.*, the next to him in seniority) had his attorney's fees and other profits to the same belonging.

The third clerk had always the enrolling of deeds and testaments‖ and the profits and fees thereof.

The fourth clerk of the Court, who was at one time called Secondary of the Court under the Town Clerk, had the taking and entering of sureties in all actions, and the swearing of wardens of crafts, receiving the fees attaching to his office. To him was

* The office of Registrar of the Mayor's Court was for the first time separated from that of Town Clerk in 1801, upon the decease of William Rix, Town Clerk.

† City Records, Journal 6, fol. 8*b*.

‡ City Records, Journal 7, fol. 74*b*.

§ City Records, Repertory 9, fol. 251*b*.

‖ *I.e*, in the Hustings, where a Court of the greatest antiquity is to this day held. To it, as formerly to all County Courts, belonged the enrolment of deeds, wills, &c. In consequence of such enrolment lands in London customarily passed by mere parole, any other voucher becoming unnecessary. From the time of the statute 27 Henry VIII. c. 16, which required all bargains and sales of land to be enrolled, down to quite modern times, various statutes have expressly directed conveyances of property in London to be so enrolled.

also entrusted one of the keys of a little chest wherein were locked the keys of the chests of charters, another key of the same being in the custody of the Town Clerk.

All the four clerks, moreover, had been accustomed to have the keeping of all manner of records, rolls, books of customs, and laws of the City, "and to studye and labour therin and to make kalenders and brevyats of theym, to thentent they myght be rype and redy in the same for ye busynesse of thys Cytie when nede shall requyre." Certain regulations were then made for their future conduct: all calendars in the custody of any of the clerks were to be brought into the "book-house," so that none of the said "Books, Brevyats, or Kalenders" should be kept secret by any of them from their fellows; old calendars were to be renewed; and no record touching the liberty of the City was to be shown to any person without express permission of the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Town Clerk for the time being, or of two of them; they were to continue to attend the Court of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen every Court day, and to bring such books and other writings as were called for; to take pains in writing the books and other business of the City, as well as to write the residue of the charters belonging to the City that remained unwritten. Hereupon the four clerks were solemnly sworn.

They obtained the name of attorneys from their having been accustomed to act as such in the Court of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, called "the Chauncery in bylles and answers betwene partye and partye." The reversion of their office was from the earliest times usually granted for a consideration by the Town Clerk, and afterwards by the Lord Mayor. In 1777 a report* of a Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the City's Cash from the year 1765 to the year 1775 informed the Court of Common Council that they "find that the several Places or Offices of the four Common Pleaders, the four Attornies of the Mayor's Court, the Common Cryer's Youngman, and the Five other Youngmen of the Lord Mayor's Household, together with the Eight City Waits, have been always disposed of or alienated by the Lord Mayor for the time being." The Committee then named certain sums of money which they

* City Records, Journal 67, fol. 35*b*.

were of opinion should be fixed and settled for the alienation of the above places, fixing the sum to be paid by each of the four attorneys of the Mayor's Court at 60*l.* This report was agreed to. It must be added, however, that in the month of November of the previous year the Court of Common Council, on the recommendation of the same Committee, had agreed to pay the Lord Mayor for the time being the sum of 1,000*l.* for his right of alienation of offices, and that accordingly the above sum of 60*l.* was for the future to be paid into the City's Chamber.

It is clear from what appears above that the whole business of writing up the various records of the City fell upon these four clerks or attorneys of the Mayor's Court, and that previous to 1537 it had been the custom for each of them to keep the calendar or other document on which he was working in his own custody, the office of attorney being probably even at that time a purchasable place.

If such a lax system as this had prevailed with them from the earliest times, it is scarcely a matter for surprise if some of the records of the City of London are found at the present day to be incomplete.

These orders appear to have had but little effect, for we find them repeated in 1651. On the 20th of January of that year the Recorder, Sir John Wollaston, Knt. and Alderman, and the rest of the Committee appointed amongst other things to consider of regulating the proceedings in the Mayor's Court, presented to the Court of Aldermen certain other orders or rules. These are set out at length in the City Records,* some of which, as more immediately bearing upon the subject in hand, may be here briefly noticed.

Firstly, the Committee report "that for the avoiding of severall inconveniencyes found by the not haveing of a publique and knowne place for entering of Actions and Recording of Attachments made, and that all actions entered may bee easily found, some certaine convenient place in or neere the Guild Hall bee appointed for that purpose, wherein every of the four Clerkes being Attorneys in the Maior's Court shall in their weeke attend in course by themselves or servants for whome they wilbee answereable."

* Repertory 62, fols. 39-41.

They then recommend (among other things) "that the Records of that Court shalbee faithfully kept by those Clerkes either in that place to bee appointed as aforesaid, or in the Thesa'ry, and not to bee removed from either of those places without an order of Court, and the same to be produced upon all occasions;.....that none of the Records of this Court or of the Court of Hustings after it is entered as a Record in Court bee carryed by any of the Clerkes or Attorneyes or any other unto their owne houses, but bee kept in the aforesaid place upon the severall Attorneyes files respectively, or in the Thesaury;.....that all Depositions, Draughts of Certificates, Deedes, Willes and Testaments, Recognizances for orphans, and especiall orders of Court Repertoryes, and all other proceedings which ought to bee made upp, filed, or entered, bee accordingly made upp, filed, and entered by the Town Clerke and the severall Attorneyes to whome the same doth belonge respectively, and left in the Thesaury where the same ought to bee kept."

These and other orders or rules, having been read openly in Court, were well liked and approved, and ordered to be entered on the Repertory, to be thereafter duly observed.

In 1660, upon the motion of the Lord Mayor intimating that he understood from the clerks of the Utter Court and others that of late years the said Court had not been so duly attended by the Town Clerk and his clerks, nor the business of their clients done with such despatch as ought to be, to their extraordinary trouble and charge and other inconveniences, which had "been occasioned by keeping the office of the said Towne-Clerke in severall and distant places"; and also the Court being informed of divers disorders in the said Court, and that the orders formerly made touching the books and records and the safe and well keeping of them in the book-house were wholly neglected, a Committee was appointed to take the several matters into consideration and to certify its opinions thereon.* It does not readily appear from the City Records what was the result of this reference.

Matters were not improved by the devastation wrought a few years later upon the Guildhall and its surroundings by the Great

* Repertory 67, fol. 146.

Fire. Steps were immediately taken to secure the records and other writings of "daily use and necessity," by removing them to the lodgings* lately held by Dr. Horton;† but it was not till 1669 that it was finally referred to the Committee for Public Works to appoint a suitable office for the attorneys, "to be soe built and with such speed as in their Judgem^ts^ shall be most convenient and answerable to the purpose menc'oned and intended in and by the same Report."‡

That the records of the Mayor's Court suffered, together with the rest of the City's archives, in the Great Fire appears from this Report. The Committee to whom it had been referred to consider of rules and orders for the better regulation of the "Utter Court" inform the Court of Aldermen "that many files of the Utter Court and some other things (now missing, besides what were burnt in the dismall fire) for ought appeares utterly lost";§ and therefore it is in the highest degree probable that similar rolls of letters to these whose contents are here set out in *précis* perished either directly by fire (if not lost previously) or were lost in the general confusion consequent to it. Presuming this to have been the case, there is no necessity for further following the attorneys of the Mayor's Court down to the decease of Mr. George Ashley, the last of a long line of attorneys of that Court,‖ who but recently died; nor to pursue

* At Gresham House in Bishopsgate Street, which afforded at this crisis a temporary shelter for the City Chamberlain and the Swordbearer as well as for the Deputy Town Clerk.

† He held the Professorship of Divinity in Gresham College almost uninterruptedly from 1641 till 1661, when he was compelled to retire, owing to his having infringed the conditions of his appointment by marrying, notwithstanding his having previously succeeded in obtaining dispensations from the Lord Protector and King Charles II.

‡ Repertory 74, fols. 303–306*b*.

§ Repertory 74, fol. 305*b*.

‖ Mr. Charles James Orton, who is yet alive, was admitted, indeed, an attorney of the Mayor's Court in 1848, but only upon his undertaking to execute a deed releasing all right of alienation and all claim to the annuity and fees payable by the Corporation, and also covenanting to submit to all such rules and regulations as might be made for the government of the office and the practice of the Court, and binding himself not to claim compensation in the event of its being deemed expedient and practicable to extend the right to practise to other solicitors. This extension was soon afterwards effected.

the history of the successive changes which took place in the locality where from time to time the business of the Court was transacted by the attorneys, namely, from the Guildhall to the Royal Exchange, from the Royal Exchange to the Marshal's Office at the Mansion House, and from the Mansion House to the Old Jewry, the site of their last public office as a collective body.

The opinion of Mr. Woodthorpe Brandon, the present Judge of the Mayor's Court, and one most competent to form a judgment upon the matter, is that no early records of the Mayor's Court found their way to the Royal Exchange, and that these, therefore, escaped the ravages of the conflagration which took place there in 1838. This opinion also seems warranted not only by the fact that there is still preserved in the Town Clerk's Office a large and valuable collection of early pleadings and other records of this Court which escaped the Great Fire of 1666, but also by the appearance of the charred remains of such records as did actually suffer in the fire at the Royal Exchange, and were afterwards removed to the Guildhall.

REGINALD R. SHARPE.

*February, 1885.*

# LETTERS FROM THE MAYOR, ETC., OF LONDON,

*Circa* A.D. 1350—1370.

# CALENDAR.

## ROLL No. I.

*Temp.* WALTER TURK, MAYOR [A.D. 1349—50], *continued.*

1. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Chief Executor of the Ordinances of Justice, the Priors of the Arts, and Standard-bearer of Justice, the People and Commonalty of the City of *Florence.**

Reminding them that they had been informed in a former letter that "Jacobus Gerardi Gentilis," a citizen of Florence residing in England, had seized various sums of money and wool belonging to Henry Pycard, citizen of London, whilst

* The city of Florence about this period was governed by an officer called the Gonfalonier (*i. e.*, Standard-bearer) of Justice, Priors or Rectors of the Arts (*i. e.*, trade guilds), the College of Goodmen (*Buonomini*), and the Gonfaloniers of Companies. As early as the thirteenth century the wealthier guilds of Florence had established a form of government or seignory of their own, consisting of members chosen among themselves with the title of Priors, afterwards called Consuls. They formed a chamber of commerce and manufactures, besides exercising the functions of judicial magistrates in their respective trades and the higher duties of administration. The Chief Executor of the Ordinances of Justice held a position only inferior to a *Podestà*, an officer first created by Frederic Barbarossa, and one who, to avoid local attachments, was always a foreigner, and elected for one year only. *Vide* Napier's 'Florentine History,' vol. ii.

being conveyed from England to Tuscany, and that request had been made to them to cause the same to be returned lest reprisal should be taken from their folk repairing to London. Are surprised that nothing had been done in the matter, and renew request, asking to be informed by letter sent by bearer what they purpose doing in the matter.

London, 23rd September, *s.a.* *Latin.*

2. Walter Turk, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Dovor.*

John de Egmentone, citizen of London, had complained that, when lately visiting their part of the country, his horse and other goods and chattels had been seized by them, on suspicion of his being a man of evil disposition and of having come by the same unlawfully. Certify that the said John was a good man and loyal and had lawfully come by the said horse and other goods, and request them to deliver up the same in full. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 21st October, *s.a.* *French.*

3. The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Informing them that John Olyver, a burgess of their town, lately deceased, was indebted to Simon Chamberleyn, vintner, in the sum of 20*l.* sterling, as by his letter obligatory sealed with his seal appears. Pray them therefore to cause John Fynch, burgess of their town, executor of the said Olyver, to satisfy the said debt, in such a manner as they would wish their folk to be treated when repairing to London in like case or weightier. The Lord, &c.

No date. *French.*

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* RICHARD DE KYSLYNGBURY, MAYOR [A.D. 1350—1].

4. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Chief Executor of the Ordinances of Justice,

the Priors of the Arts, and Standard-bearer of Justice, the People and Commonalty of the City of *Florence*.*

Gregorio Bonacursi " de laterino," citizen of London, had complained of having, to his no small loss and prejudice, had a large quantity of merchandise, which he had sent into their country, seized by certain men, as it were sons of iniquity, not having God before their eyes, and wishing to stir up strife, whose names they would learn from the bearer of these letters; and whereas he had demanded that satisfaction should be made to him of persons and goods within the City of London, both present and to come, they are earnestly desired to cause the aforesaid merchandise to be restored, otherwise they must not complain if their countrymen be made to indemnify the said Gregorio in similar case.

London, 2nd October, *s.a.* *Latin.*

**5.** The same to the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Simon Fraunceys, citizen of London, had complained that his goods and chattels, and the wool of Andrew Aubrey, citizen of London, had been seized in their part of the country at the suit of Nicholas Dobbesone and Thomas Resteleyh, burgesses of Bristol, for one hundred golden crowns which they had lent to Thomas Fraunceys, John Mokkyng, and Robert de Hulle, on the understanding that the said Thomas Fraunceys was at the time the agent of the said Simon. Certify that the said Thomas Fraunceys had been found on the oath of the said Simon and of other trustworthy citizens not to have been his agent at the time of the loan, nor before, nor had he any goods belonging to the said Simon; nor had the said Thomas Fraunceys, John Mokkyng, and Robert de Hulle any lands, tenements, or goods within the liberties of the City of London, wherewith to satisfy the claim of the

* *Vide* Letter No. 1, note.

said burgesses of Bristol. Pray them therefore to restore the merchandise thus seized. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 5th November, *s.a.* *French.*

6. [The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London] to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Reminding them of a former letter* in which they were requested to cause John Fynch, executor of the will of John Olyver, late burgess of their town, to satisfy a debt of 20*l.* sterling due to Simon Chamberleyn, citizen and vintner of London. Express surprise that nothing as yet had been done by them, so far as could be ascertained, and again desire them to see justice done, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject, or to annoy their folk when repairing to London, owing to their default.

London, 6th November, *s.a.* *French.*

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* RICHARD DE KYSLYNGBURY, MAYOR [A.D. 1350—1], *continued.*

7. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Dendermouche* (Dendermond), in Flanders.

Robert de Manyngfeld had complained that having lately entrusted two coloured pieces of cloth of the value of twelve marks sterling to John Scof, burgess of their town, for the purpose of sale in the City of London, the said John had, on receiving the cloths, suddenly and privily quitted the City for Flanders, without paying the said Robert for the same. Desire them to cause the said John, who is understood now to be in their town, to satisfy the said Robert of the debt, together with costs and damages incurred through his default.

London, 6th November, *s.a.* *French.*

* Letter No. 3, *supra.*

8. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Lenne* (Lynn, co. Norfolk).

John de Walkerne, citizen of London, had complained that when he was journeying on a pilgrimage to the city of Rome, his wife Lucy had by evil counsel in the mean time removed his goods and chattels from out of the City of London: that on his return he went from county court to county court and from town to town until he discovered a portion of the said goods in their town of "Lenne," where they had been seized by their bailiffs. They are desired, therefore, to assist the said John in the recovery of his goods which had been lost in manner aforesaid.

No date. *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Grymmesby* on behalf of the same John de Walkerne.

*Latin.*

9. Letters Patent of Richard de Kyslyngbury, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London, sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the same.

Certifying that Roger de la Panetrye was a citizen of London, and ought to enjoy the liberties of the said City whithersoever he may travel within the King's dominion; and requesting all who should see these letters to suffer the said Roger and his merchants visiting their part of the country with merchandise to come and go without demand of toll or any manner of custom.

London, no date. *French.*

10. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Oxeneford* (Oxford).

Requesting them to favour and assist Thomas de Stokes, citizen of London, and bearer of these letters, who had

business to transact in their part of the country with George le Paneter, one of the serjeants of their town of "Oxeneford," by reason of an agreement entered into between them, touching which the said Thomas would more fully inform them by word of mouth.

London, no date. *French.*

**11.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Reverend Father in Jesus Christ, Sir William de Edyngton, Bishop of *Wyncestre* (Winchester), the King's Treasurer.

Information had been sent to the King's Council of the delivery of the wool which had been lately seized at the suit of the merchant* [of] Adam Brabazon, and sufficient mainprise had been tendered for the said Adam before the Chancellor, who had refused to accept it without the Bishop's consent. Pray him therefore to allow sufficient mainprise to be taken for the production of the body of the said Adam before the King and his Council, to submit at any time to what the King and his Council might ordain. Express regard for the holy season which was approaching, and pray the Lord may give him a happy and long life.

London, the morrow of the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (21st December), *s.a. French.*

**12.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Reverend Father in Jesus Christ, Sir Simon [Islip], by the grace of God Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England.

That it might please him to know that in respect of his letters sent to them they had surrendered, and were willing to surrender, all things touching William Croude, executor of the will of John de Kyslyngbury, and Joan, daughter of the said John; and that at his coming he should be more fully

* Agent.

informed of the matter, that reason might be done to the said poor woman according to law and equity. Pray God grant him a long life and happy, and maintain his honours.

London, no date. *French.*

**13.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Reminding them of their former letter,* sealed with the common seal of the City of London, wherein they were requested to cause the goods and chattels of Simon Fraunceys and the wool of Andrew Aubrey, citizens of London, to be given up to them, which had been unlawfully seized to satisfy a loan of one hundred golden crowns made by Nicholas Dobbesene and Thomas Rosteleyh, burgesses of Bristol, to Thomas Fraunceys, John Mokkyng, and Robert Hulle, who possessed neither goods nor chattels, lands nor tenements, within the liberties of the City of London wherewith they could be made to satisfy the same, and that concerning this request nothing had as yet been done. It was understood that the wool of the said Andrew had been seized at the suit of the said Nicholas Dobbesene and Thomas Rosteleyh by fraud and collusion in Wales, beyond their jurisdiction, to the great prejudice of the liberties of the City of London and great disgrace and loss to the said Andrew, who knew nothing of the loan. Moreover it had been discovered that wines belonging to the said John Mokkyng to the value of the said one hundred crowns and more had been seized at Bordeaux at the suit of the same persons, purposing to recover the sum twice over, contrary to conscience, law, and reason. Desire them, therefore, especially to cause their said fellow burgesses to appear before them, and make restitution to the said Andrew or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, of his wool, together with the goods and chattels

* Letter No. 5, *supra.*

of the said Simon, and to proclaim to all their fellow burgesses that they lend not their goods and chattels except at their own risk, so as to avoid any dispute owing to loans of this kind. Unless they take this request to heart, necessity would certainly arise for annoying their folk coming to London. Wish to be informed by letters sent by bearer what they shall have done. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 15th January, *s.a.* *French.*

*Temp.* RICHARD DE KYSLYNGBURY, MAYOR
[A.D. 1350—1], *continued.*

**14.** The same to the same.

On the same subject. Again desire the delivery of the wool to Andrew Aubrey which had been unlawfully seized in Wales, together with costs and damages, inasmuch as he was never indebted to Nicholas Dobbesene and Thomas Rosteleyh, burgesses of their town, to the extent of a single penny; and supposing that he had been so indebted, they could have found sufficient to seize in Bristol, as they well knew. Let them take this request to heart, otherwise there would be occasion to annoy their folk coming to London. The Lord, &c.

London, 20th January, *s.a.* *French.*

**15.** The same to Master Nicholas Hethe.*

Understood from one John Worthin,† a friar of the order

* Another letter to him from the Corporation is to be found in their Records, asking him to recommend to the Holy Father Master Richard Cleaungre, a kinsman of the above Andrew Aubrey, as they had heard from their dear and well-beloved brother John Worthin that he could avail him more than any other person of the nation. Letter Book F, fol. 178. He was afterwards thrown into prison for pretending that he was the Pope's secretary, and able to obtain such bulls of indulgence as are here mentioned, whence he was discharged on the 20th November, 1352, by order of the King. *Vide* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 255.

† A petition was addressed by the City of London in the previous year to the Pope, that his chaplain John de Worthyn, or, if he should die, that the prior of the

of Preaching Friars, that he was on more intimate terms with the Holy Father* at Avignon than any other person of the English nation, and was able to procure bulls of absolution for the whole City of London, in conformity with letters which had been sent to the Holy Father, a copy of which is enclosed; and on this account he had received forty livres from Antoin Mayllebayl on behalf of Andrew Aubrey, citizen of London: moreover he had himself, when in London, informed the writers that the said bulls of absolution had been purchased, and would shortly be forwarded, whereof nothing had as yet been heard, and it was understood that nothing had as yet been done. He is desired, therefore, to make no suit for the said bulls, unless he can obtain them according to the purport of the letters sent to the Holy Father, without any diminution or alteration. If he fail to procure such bulls he is to return the forty livres to the said Antoin, that there may be no necessity to inform the Holy Father of the deceit practised by him, nor to take measures against him according to the law of the land. He is to know that unless he acts loyally in the matter he will be prosecuted so as to be disgraced in the eyes of the Holy Father and everybody else, and is requested to send an answer by bearer as to what he purposes doing therein, otherwise every possible legal method will be used to annoy him.

London, 6th February, 25 Edward III. [A.D. $135\frac{0}{1}$].

*French.*

**16.** [The same] to the Bailiffs of *Jernemue* (Yarmouth).

Understood from John Underwode, citizen of London and mercer, that he was not permitted to carry 200 quarters of

convent of his order (*i. e.*, Dominicans or Black Friars), might be empowered to grant absolution within the City, as a dreadful mortality (the plague of 1349) had so cut off their merchants that the citizens of London were no longer able in person to visit the Holy See, even in important cases reserved for His Holiness's court, except at a ruinous expense, whilst the present wars were going on.—Letter Book F, fol. 177.

* Pope Clement VI.

corn which he had purchased in their part of the country, nor to discharge the same anywhere else except at the City of London, and that he had given security to that end. Certify that the said 200 quarters of corn arrived at the City of London on board the ship called "Godosknyght," of "Serice," in "Seland," Pieres But master, and were there discharged. God have them in his keeping, &c.

No date. *French.*

**17.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges.*

John de Gonewardeby, citizen of London, had complained that whereas eight tuns of woad, belonging to Wynaud de Reule, of Bruges, had lately been forfeited into the King's hands at "Sandewyz," he, together with John de Depham, citizen of London, had, at the request of the said Wynaud, made suit to the King for the surrender of the same, and after much trouble and expense had recovered it and brought it to London. The said John de Depham dying shortly afterwards, Sir William de Buckely, his executor, had received, by virtue of the King's letters patent, the moiety of the said woad, the receipt for which had been publicly acknowledged. The other moiety the said John de Gonewardeby declared on oath he had sold for the sum of 26*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which he was ready to pay to the said Wynaud, less his portion of the costs incurred by him and the said John de Depham. He complained also that his goods had been seized in their country at the suit of the said Wynaud for the whole value of the woad, contrary to law and reason. Desire them to assist him, that he may not be forced to pay more than is reasonable. Let them take this request to heart for love's sake, as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor, Constable, and Society of the Staple.*

**18.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Gaunt* (Ghent).

Informing them that whereas Walter de Kelsterne, burgess of "Euerwyk" (York), was bound to John Hokeman, draper of "Gaunt," in the sum of 56*l.* sterling for twenty-four pieces of cloth, which he had purchased of the said John, he had fully paid the said sum in wools and woolfells to William Van Zabeke, servant and attorney of the said John Hokeman in England; in proof of which he produced merchants and other trustworthy men who bore testimony to the fact of payment having been made in manner aforesaid. They are therefore desired to accept this testimony, and cause the said William Van Zabeke to satisfy the said John Hokeman of the said 56*l.*, together with his damages and costs incurred by reason aforesaid, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier when in London. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 23rd February, *s.a.* *French.*

**19.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Certifying that among the Remembrances at the Guildhall which are of record, it had been found that John, son of Richard Haldone, of "Hakeney," became an apprentice of John de Pateneye, citizen of London, for a term of ten years from Christmas, a° 19 Edward III., by indentures between them made according to the custom of the City of London. The said John de Pateneye, having lately died, had devised by will

* Staples or markets where only certain goods, called staple goods, were allowed to be sold, were established by the *Statute of Staples*, 27 Edward III. stat. 2. They were sometimes appointed within and sometimes without the kingdom. They were regulated by a Court presided over by a Mayor, and all matters in dispute were then decided in a summary way by the Law Merchant.

the remaining term of the said apprenticeship to Agnes, his wife, afterwards wife of Gilbert de Stayndrope, citizen of London. The said apprentice had lately suddenly withdrawn himself from the service of the said Gilbert and Agnes, contrary to the custom of the said City, and was understood to be residing in their town of Bristol. They are therefore especially desired to assist and favour the said Gilbert and Agnes, or their attorney, the bearer of these letters, that he might be brought back to serve them according to the customs of the City aforesaid, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated when in London in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**20.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the honoured and wise lady the Abbess* of *Mallyngge* (Malling, co. Kent).

Nicholas Fychet, the bearer, had complained that when lately he visited the town of "Mallyngge" with his merchandise, the same had been seized by her bailiffs on suspicion of wrong and that he had wrongfully come by them. Certify that the said Nicholas is a good man and loyal, and had lawfully come by the same, and desire her to cause her bailiffs to restore them. The Lord have her in his keeping.

London, 1st March, *s.a.* *French.*

**21.** The same to the Bailiffs and Constables of *Brauncestre* (Brancaster, co. Norfolk).

Thomas Gatyn and Richard de Eure, citizens of London, had complained that 80 quarters of corn, purchased in their

* The name of this abbess is not known. During the great pestilence in A.D. 1348 and 1349, the Bishop of Rochester, according to Dugdale, had made two abbesses here, who shortly afterwards died, and whose names do not appear to have been preserved. After the death of the second of these, there being only eight nuns in the monastery, the bishop committed the custody of the spirituals and temporals to two of them, as there was not a proper person for the office of abbess.

part of the country by Thomas Birle, had been seized on suspicion that the said Thomas desired to carry the same thence to the King's enemies. Certify that the said Thomas Gatyn and Richard de Eure had given security that the said corn should be brought to the City of London, for the use of the said City, and to no other part, and desire them therefore to deliver up the same to the said Thomas Birle.

London, 10th March, *s.a.* *French.*

**22.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs of *Wrangle* (co. Lincoln).

Certifying that a certain vessel called "La Gerlaund" of Wrangle, Aleyn de Rede master, laden with 10 quarters of corn, 40 quarters of "sprigges,"* and 60 quarters of hay, which had lately been purchased in their country by Emond Oliver, citizen of London, to be carried to the said City and nowhere else, had duly arrived in the City of London and had there been discharged.

No date. *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same on behalf of Richard Smelt.

**23.** The same to the Bailiffs and Constables of *Colyngbourne* (co. Wilts).

Had heard from Richard Gurveus, "jueler,"† citizen of London, that when lately visiting their part of the country with 9 "hanaps de mazer,"‡ 1 "hanap de plane,"§ 6 rings of gold, and divers other jewels, to the value of 12*l.* sterling,

* Probably brushwood, although the word, which appears in Letter Book G, fol. 83, is interpreted by Riley in 'Memorials of London' as a kind of nail.

† Jeweller.

‡ Handled cups of maslin or mixed metal according to some, *vide* glossary to 'Liber Albus' (H. T. Riley); according to others, "mazer" is some kind of wood, probably maple.

§ Wood of the plane tree.

the bailiffs of Colyngbourne had seized the same, on suspicion that he had wrongfully come by them. Certify that the said Richard, citizen of London, was a good man and loyal merchant, and had lawfully come by the said goods, and pray that they be restored to him without loss, that there might be no occasion to write to them again on the same subject. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**24.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Reminding them that they had already twice* been requested to cause John Fynch, executor of John Oliver, late burgess of their town, to satisfy a debt of the said John of 20*l.* sterling, due to Simon Chaumberleyn, vintner, at the time of his decease, and expressing surprise that nothing had as yet been done in the matter. Again request that they would cause the same to be paid, otherwise their folk would certainly be annoyed when repairing to London, owing to their default.

No date. *French.*

**25.** [The same] to the Bailiffs of *Bermyngeham* (Birmingham).

Had heard from John Dawe, "Drover," citizen of London, that they had distrained upon his goods and chattels for custom which they demanded of all merchandise coming into their part of the country. Pray them to restore the distress so taken to the said John or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, inasmuch as both he and all who are of the franchise of the said City are, and ought to be,† quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 14th May, *s.a.* *French.*

* Letters Nos. 3 and 6, *supra.*

† By charter of Henry I., confirmed by subsequent charters.

## *Temp.* RICHARD DE KYSLYNGBURY, MAYOR
[A.D. 1350—1], *continued.*

**26.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges.*

On the same subject as Letter No. 17, *supra.* Wynaud de Reule, burgess of Bruges, had asserted that he had paid to Raulyn de Depham, the attorney of John de Depham, deceased, the sum of 50*l.*, costs incurred in respect of the woad; but the said John de Depham and Raulyn, his attorney, had, when alive, made oath, in the presence of trustworthy men, that they had never received one penny of the said costs. John Lovekyn, the attorney of John de Gonewardeby, has been given to understand that if the papers of the said Raulyn and of Thomas Houdelowe, apprentice of John de Depham, were searched, one would discover the receipt for the 50*l.* aforesaid. Search had accordingly been made, but no receipt found: moreover John de Gonewardeby and Thomas Houdelowe, and many other good men, had upon oath declared that they were not aware of the said Raulyn having ever received a single penny of the said 50*l.* Pray them, therefore, to deliver up the merchandise of the said John de Gonewardeby which had been seized in their country, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 21st May, *s.a. French.*

**27.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Burgomasters of *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Peter Grubbe, citizen and fishmonger of London, had complained that lately having chartered a ship, John Brabard owner and master, to go from London to Winchelsea for a cargo of 12,000 "busche,"* belonging to the said Peter, to bring the same to London, for a stipulated sum, the

* Firewood.

said John took the ship to Winchelsea, and having laden it with the said 12,000 "busche," price sixteen marks, had carried the same to Dunkirk, contrary to law and reason, and there sold the whole of the said "busche," and received and retained the money. He is understood to be residing in their country. They are, therefore, especially desired to cause him to appear and to act honourably towards the said Peter. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 23rd May, *s.a.* *French.*

**28.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Reminding them of former letters,* to which they had replied that they had summoned John Fynch to answer respecting the alleged debt, who had declared that he had no goods of the deceased in his possession wherewith to satisfy the same. Had heard that this was not the case, inasmuch as the said John Fynch had in his possession lands, tenements, goods, and chattels of the deceased, wherewith he could pay the said Simon Chaumberleyn, if he would. Desire them, therefore, immediately to cause the debt to be paid, otherwise it would certainly behove them (the writers) to annoy their folk repairing to London, owing to their default. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 24th May, *s.a.* *French.*

**29.** Letters patent of Richard de Kyslyngbury, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London.

Notifying that they had considered a requisition made by the King for an aid of 20,000 marks for the protection of the realm, upon the customs and subsidy of wools, leathers, and woolfells issuing from the port of London, and had deputed the said Mayor, Simon Fraunceys, Henry Pycard, Roger de Depham, and William Welde, Aldermen, together

* Letters Nos. 3, 6, and 24, *supra.*

with eleven Commoners, to wait upon the King and his Council to signify their assent to the same;* and in order that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commoners might not at any time be impeached for granting the said sum in their name, these letters patent, sealed with the common seal of the said City, had been made.

London, Thursday next after the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (25th April), 25 Edward III. (A.D. 1351). *French.*

**30.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Gloucestre* (Gloucester).

Thomas de Brandon, citizen of London and mercer, had complained that nineteen "sarplers" of wool, whilst being carried on carts hired by his agents from their part of the country to London, had been seized by their bailiffs for a debt due by the master† of the manor of "Denmore," one of the Brethren of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, supposing that the wool belonged to the master of the said manor. Testify that the wool belongs to the said Thomas, who bought it of the said master a long time since; and especially pray them to deliver up the same to the said Thomas or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, that there might not be any cause for annoying their folk repairing to London, owing to their default of what is right. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 28th May, *s.a.* *French.*

**31.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Henle* (Henley).

Informing them that the will of William Double, late citizen and fishmonger of London, had been proved and enrolled in

* The King's writ, dated from Eltham, 25th May of this year, appointing assessors to collect this sum which he had borrowed from the City for the defence of his realm, is set out in the City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 204.

† *Le Meistre.*

the Hustings* of the City of London, and that the tenements of the said William situate in the said town of "Henle" had not been devised to any; and praying them, therefore, to aid and favour John de Cranesle and Joan his wife, sister and heir of the said William, as appears by letters patent sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of Northampton.

London, 8th June, *s.a.* *French.*

**32.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Lutoun* (Luton, co. Beds).

Understood that William le Smyth and Ralph le Bakere, servants of John de Welde and John de Sandwyz, citizens and fishmongers of London, had gone with their masters' permission to communicate with friends in the country, to return immediately to serve their masters according to agreement. On arriving at "Lutoun" the bailiffs of the town had arrested them on suspicion that they were men of evil disposition. Testify to the said William and Ralph being good men and loyal, and sworn to serve their masters faithfully till Michaelmas next, and pray their surrender for love's sake.

London, 1st July, *s.a.* *French.*

**33.** The same to the Prior and Convent of *Donestable* (Dunstable, co. Beds).

Alice Edward, citizen of London, had complained that John Aleyn, sworn to serve her till Christmas next, had suddenly, and without her permission, left her service in the week of Pentecost, contrary to the statute. Had heard of his arrest by their bailiffs in the town of "Donestable," and therefore pray his surrender, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord, &c.

No date. *French.*

* Hust. Roll 77 (217).

**34.** [The same] to the Bailiffs of *Thame* (co. Oxon).

Certifying that John de Stoke, servant of John de Coventre, citizen of London and servant of the lord the King, had lawfully come by eight oxen and two cows, which had been seized in their bailiwick on suspicion, and desiring them to restore the same to the said John de Coventre, the bearer of these letters, without further grievance. The Lord, &c.

No date. *French.*

**35.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Lenne* (Lynn, co. Norfolk).

The goods and chattels of Alice Edward, citizen of London, had lately been delivered by John Aleyn, her servant, to certain of their bailiffs for safe keeping, to be re-delivered at the will of the said John. They are desired, therefore, to assist the said John, Roberd de Pursele, and Richard de Sogham, citizens of London and bearers of these letters, to recover the same, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 27th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**36.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges.*

Certifying that Peter Medenhoe, a Fleming of Bruges, had died in the house of Maude Aleyns, citizen of London, in the parish of St. Botolph at Billingsgate, on Friday next after the Feast of the Holy Trinity last past. The Lord, &c.

Saturday next before the Assumption of Our Lady (15th August), *s.a.* *French.*

**37.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins, Council, and Good Folk of the Town of *Bruges.*

Had received letters under the seal of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Bristol, certifying that Richard

Curteys, of Bristol, who had been horribly put to death on the prosecution of Hildebrand Southerman* and his companions, merchants of Almaine, was a good man and loyal, and that on the Feast of the Ascension last past he was at Bristol, on which day he was charged, as they are well aware, by the said Hildebrand and his companions, with having committed a robbery at "Lescluse" (Sluys); this was known to be a fact on the testimony of many good trustworthy men. Had heard that the said Hildebrand and his companions had given them to understand that Thomas Dolsely, Mayor of the Staple, had made use of some disagreeable expressions against them and their judgments. Let them be assured that such is not the case; he had said nothing of them but what was good, and had excused them as not having assented to the death of the said Richard, nor participated in his prosecution; and inasmuch as the said Thomas had been menaced if he should come into their parts, they are entreated to take him and his goods into their safe keeping.

No date. *French.*

**38.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of *Covyntre* (Coventry).

Certifying that Tydeman Knyf is a freeman of the City of London, and entitled to enjoy the franchise thereof throughout the King's dominion; and praying that his goods and chattels, which had been seized by their bailiffs on the understanding that he was not free of the said City, may be delivered up to him or his attorney, the bearer of these letters. No date. *French.*

* Owing to his implication in the death of this man he was especially excepted by name from the King's protection granted to all Merchants of the Hanse of Almaine, 25th February, 25 Edward III. (City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 204 *b;* printed in Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 232). A protection, however, was granted to him and others on the 25th November following, but subsequently withdrawn in his case until the King should have been better informed of his conduct in the matter, as appears by a royal proclamation to the Merchants of the Hanse of Almaine, dated 20th August, 26 Edward III. (A.D. 1352). Letter Book F, folios 207, 215 *b.*

**39.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Seint Auban* (St. Albans).

John atte Wharf, citizen of London, had complained of being robbed of linen and woollen cloths, pots, pails, wools, basins, and other things of great value which he lately had in his possession when in the said City of London: he had sought them from town to town and place to place until he had discovered them in their town of "Seint Auban," where he had caused them to be seized. They are desired to give them up, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject, and to prevent reprisal being taken.

No date. *French.*

## *Temp.* RICHARD DE KYSLYNGBURY, MAYOR [A.D. 1350—1], *continued.*

**40.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Jurats, and Good Folk of the City of *Burdeaux* (Bordeaux).

Had heard from William Heyroun, citizen of London, that Robert Honylee, his servant, had lately purchased on his behalf from Guylliam de la Tour, merchant of "Seint Makary,"* 15 tuns and one pipe of wine at 22 crowns "*la piece*," and from Standone Labbot, citizen of Bordeaux, 6 tuns of wine of "Maddok"† at the same price; and forasmuch as disputes had arisen between the said William and Robert respecting the price of the wines aforesaid, they are especially desired to cause the said Guylliam and Standone, vendors of the same, to appear before them, and to inquire of them upon oath touching the truth of the said sale, and thereupon to send information by bearer.

London, 15th September, *s.a.* *French*

* Bayonne. † Medoc.

**41.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Bristut* (Bristol).

It had been shown by John de Westone, draper and citizen of London, executor of Michael Mynot, that Roger Turtel, burgess of Bristol, deceased, at the time of his death owed to the said Michael 52*l.* sterling and 13 tuns of wine or its equivalent, as appears from two bonds sealed with the seal of the said Roger, not one penny of which had been paid by him when alive. They are, therefore, especially desired to cause the executors of the said Roger to appear before them and to satisfy the said John or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, of the debts aforesaid, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject.

London, 18th September, *s.a.* *French.*

**42.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Seynt Emon* (Bury St. Edmunds, co. Suffolk).

Richard de Hertle, farrier and citizen of London, had complained that one John de Cantebrigge, farrier, who had entered into an agreement with him to faithfully serve him for a term of six years, had suddenly, more than a year since, left his service without permission, and had not returned to serve him, contrary to his oath and the statute thereupon ordained. He was, moreover, reported to be residing within their town of "Seint Emon." They are, therefore, especially desired to assist the said Richard in the recovery of his servant, that he may be brought back to serve him according to his oath and the agreement aforesaid. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be ready to do what they could.

No date. *French.*

Sworn before the Mayor that the said plaint is true.

- William de Thame.
- William de Lodelowe.
- Henry de Suthewelle.
- Richard Horne.

*Latin.*

**43.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of *Sandwyz* (Sandwich, co. Kent).

Had already twice desired them by letter to inquire into a grievous offence lately committed against John Tornegold, the younger, at "Plomouth" (Plymouth), by Thomas Gyboun, Thomas de Chilham, "maryner," Robert Gofaire, and other malefactors, contrary to the peace of the lord the King, and to see justice done. To which they had replied that they had examined the said persons in full assembly, who declared themselves not guilty of the charges made against them; but that if the said John Tornegold would come to "Sandwyz" and make his suit, they would see justice done. Whereupon the said John had gone to "Sandwyz," but had returned (it was understood) without remedy or recovery, to his great loss and damage. They are again, therefore, especially desired to take this matter to heart that friendship might continue between them, and that their citizens repairing to London might not be aggrieved through default of justice on their part. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**44.** The same to their most excellent Prince and Lord, the Lord Edward [III.], King of England and France and Lord of Ireland.

Enclosing copy of letter* which they had sent, at the request of Henry Pycard, citizen of London, to the Captain and Commonalty of the City of Florence, and which had been ignored by them, to the great prejudice of the said Henry; and humbly praying him to provide such remedy as should seem good on submission of the said letter to his Council. The Most Highest preserve him, and give him victory over his enemies.

No date. *Latin.*

* Letter No. 45, *infra.*

**45.** Copy of letter enclosed in No. 44, *supra*, in which the writers say that they had frequently been desired by Henry Pycard to take reprisal from the citizens of Florence residing in England in order that justice might be rendered to him. Wish, however, not to act hastily, or without giving them due notice, and therefore once more desire them to cause satisfaction to be made.

No date. *Latin.*

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* ANDREW AUBREY, MAYOR, 25 [Edward III. A.D. 1351—2].

**46.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor of the City of London, to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of *Sandewyz* (Sandwich).

John Tornegold the younger, citizen of London, had desired him and his brethren, the Aldermen and Commonalty of the said City, to take "wythernam"* of men of the town of "Sandewyz" coming to London with their goods, which thing they could not refuse according to the liberties and customs of the said City. Three letters† had been sent before he became mayor, desiring them to redress the injury to the said John inflicted at "Plomouth" (Plymouth) by Thomas Gyboun and others, but nothing had been done. They are again advised to make satisfaction, as no further delay of justice could be allowed.

No date. *French.*

**47.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bayone* (Bayonne).

Illegible. *French.*

* *Wythernam*, so called from two Anglo-Saxon words signifying a seizure on the other hand, *i. e.*, by way of reprisal. It is a seizure of *other* cattle or goods by the sheriff in lieu of those which had formerly been unjustly removed.

† Only one letter appears enrolled, viz., No. 43, *supra.*

**48.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Munestoke* (co. Southampton).

Desiring them to give up a horse and other goods and chattels belonging to Richard de Bukyngham, "peleter"* and citizen of London, which they had seized on suspicion that he was an evil-disposed person, and testifying to his good character. No date. *French.*

**49.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Excestre* (Exeter).

John Crosse, citizen of London, had complained that Martyn de Halscombe, son of William de Halscombe, his apprentice, had suddenly left his service, and was understood to be residing in their town. They are, therefore, especially desired to assist the said John to recover the said apprentice, that he might bring him back to London to serve him according to the customs of the said City.

No date. *French.*

**50.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bayone* (Bayonne).

Certifying that Pieres Nandoun de Mendye, merchant of "Bayone," had on the Feast of Pentecost, in the year of grace 1351, sold in the City of London to John de Gonewardby, "espicer,"† 165 pounds nett of "greyn"‡ for cloth, which was in a "Pipe," and 32½ pounds nett of "greyn de Parys,"§ which was in a little "Barill."

No date. *French.*

**51.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, the Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of London, to Thomas de Holond.

Desiring him to give up to Simon Fraunceys, citizen of

* A skinner or pelterer, one who dresses skins with the fleece on.

† A dealer in spices, otherwise pepperer.

‡ A red dye, so called because it was taken to be not an insect, but a seed.

§ Qy. grains of Paradise, a spice brought from the East Indies. The ordinary cardamoms seem to have been likewise so named. *Vide* Way's 'Prompt. Parv.' (Camden Soc.) and Cotgrave's French Dictionary.

London, John, son of Walter Shorne, of Great Stanmere (co. Middlesex), who had been bound apprentice to the said Simon, according to the customs of the City of London, as appears from the "Remembrances" which are of record, and whom he had removed out of the said City, to the great prejudice of his master.

No date. *French.*

52. Letters patent of the Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Citizens of London, under their common seal.

Certifying that various important documents relating to the election and consecration of the Lord Cesario, Bishop of Sancta Maria de Rosis,* among them being a Bull of confirmation of Pope Clement VI., had been destroyed by fire through the negligence of his servant, who had let fall a lighted candle while his master was absent on a pilgrimage to Rome in the year of Jubilee† last past.

London, 20th January, A.D. 1352. *Latin.*

53. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Wyncestre* (Winchester).

On behalf of Thomas de Stafford, "taillour" and citizen of London, who had business to transact in their part of the country. No date. *French.*

* Bishop *in partibus infidelium.* Recommended shortly afterwards by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to Pope Innocent VI. for ecclesiastical preferment, as being a man of exemplary character. *Vide infra* Letter No. 132.

† The year 1350, being the fiftieth year of the fourteenth century, was held as a solemn Jubilee at Rome. The festival was first instituted among the Jews. Every seventh year was termed a Sabbatical year, during which the fields were to lie untilled, and seven of these Sabbatical years being completed, a festival or great Sabbatical year was ordered to be kept, which fiftieth year was called the year of Jubilee. Pope Boniface VIII. introduced it among Christians in A.D. 1300, and ordained that it should be solemnly kept every hundredth year. But Clement VI. in 1350 reverted to the practice of the Mosaic law, and decreed that this year, and every fiftieth year following, the Jubilee should be celebrated at Rome. Odor. Raynald. 'Annales Ecclesiast.,' p. 487; Ciacon. 'Hist. Pontif. Roman.,' vol. ii. p. 483.

54. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Good Folk of *Bruges* and *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Concerning a complaint against Robert de Hull, master of the ship called "La Julianne," of London, of his having run down and sunk a "hakebote"* with men of Flanders on board at the Foreland in "Tenett" (Thanet). Certify that the matter having been investigated by the best men of the City and merchant seamen, the said Robert had been found guiltless of the charge brought against him, and desire that he may be allowed to depart with his ship unmolested.

No date. *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses summoned to examine the matter.

55. The same to the same. Illegible. *French.*

*Temp.* ANDREW AUBREY, MAYOR [A.D. 1351—2], *continued.*

56. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Bartholomew Burghaysshe,† Constable of *Dovor* Castle.

Certifying the fact that John de Knyghtcote, mercer and citizen of London, had lately sent his servant Thomas de Leycestre to Flanders with 56 florins of gold, called "Nobles," in addition to his travelling expenses, wherewith to trade, who on his arrival at "Dovor" had been arrested by Robert de Caustone, bailiff, and his money taken from him, on suspicion that he had wrongfully come by it. Pray him, therefore, to cause the said bailiff to restore the money to the said John or his attorney, the bearer of these letters. Should he desire

* A boat with a hatch or deck covering.

† He was also the King's Chamberlain and Warden of the *Cinque Ports.* Frequently sent as ambassador to France, and took a prominent part in bringing about the Peace of Bretigni in 1360, in contravention of which he was for a short time detained prisoner in France. Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 504.

anything on his part, they would be ready to do what they could. The Lord have him in his keeping and increase his honours.

No date. *French.*

**57.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges.*

Roger Pottere, citizen of London, was understood to have died in their town, to whom Thomas Cheyner, mercer and citizen of London, had been proved, on the evidence of trustworthy persons, to be cousin and next heir. They are, therefore, especially desired to assist the said Thomas or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, in matters touching the decease of the said Roger, as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 27th February, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Lesclus* (Sluys) on behalf of the same Thomas Cheyner. *Latin.*

**58.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to Sir Henry de Walton,* Archdeacon of Richmond (co. York).†

Touching John, son of Walter Shorne, of Great Stanmere (co. Middlesex), bound apprentice to Simon Fraunceys for a term of seven years, according to the custom of the City of London, who had suddenly left his master's service.‡ He was now understood to be living in the company of "Madame la

* Held the post of clerk, *i. e.* chaplain, to Henry, first Duke of Lancaster. Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 253.

† A marginal note states that this letter was sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty.

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 51, *supra.*

Duchesse de Holand et Seland"* at "Saluoye,"† with which domicile the Archdeacon was well acquainted. He is, therefore, especially desired to assist the said Simon to recover his said apprentice, and to take this request to heart, inasmuch as the matter affected the liberties of the City of London. Should he desire anything on his part, they would be ready to do what they could. The Lord have him in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**59.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Good Folk of *Barton-upon-Humber.*

Certifying that John de Grymmesby, master of the ship called "La Blithe," of Barton, arrived at London on the Thursday next after the Feast of the Holy Apostle last past, with the said ship laden with 134 quarters of barley hulled, which he sold exclusively to the good folk of the said City. To this testimony they are asked to give faith and credence. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**60.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Echevins and Commonalty of *Burcels* (Brussels).

Desiring the surrender of William de Cavendisshe, citizen of London and servant to John de Bures and Richard de Essex, drapers and citizens of London, who had been arrested, together with the goods and chattels of his said masters, at the suit of Reyner van Murchebek and Johan Retyn, residing in "Burcels," on the charge of having, five years before, in company with other "mariners" of England, robbed the said

* Maud or Matilda, eldest daughter of the above Duke of Lancaster who fell a victim to the plague in 1361. Her second husband was William, fifth Count of Holland and Zealand, called also Duke of Bavaria. Loftie's 'Memorials of the Savoy,' p. 51.

† The Savoy Palace, the residence of the Duke of Lancaster, and therefore well known to his chaplain.

Reyner and Johan of a ship coming from Rochelle to England, laden with wines of the value of 500 *livres groos*;* and testifying that the said William never was a "mariner," but a loyal servant, crossing the seas with his masters' merchandise. Had always been, and still were, willing to assist them in all matters affecting their interest.

London, 11th March, *s.a.* *French.*

**61.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Good Folk of the Town of *Faveresham* (co. Kent).

Had examined John Mountkoy and Robert de Lyncolne, citizens of London, touching John Parker and other burgesses of "Faveresham," pursuant to their letters which had been received, who had thereupon produced a letter in the same hand as the former and sealed with the seal of their town, wherein was mentioned a debt due to them by the said John Parker, Henry de Wymborne, Robert Danyel, John Child, and Boydyn "mariner," burgesses of "Faveresham," who had promised to pay them the sum of 6*l.* 12*s.* at the Feast of the Purification (2nd February) last past, whereof they declare upon oath they had not received one penny. Desire them, therefore, to cause the said John Parker and the others before mentioned to satisfy the said debt, that there might be no occasion for annoying their folk repairing to London, owing to their default. The Lord have them in his keeping. No date. *French.*

**62.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Honoured Lady the Duchess of Holand and Seland.†

On the same subject as Nos. 51 and 58 *supra.* Request her to give up John, son of Walter Shorne, of Great Stanmere,

* According to Roquefort ('Glossaire de la Langue Romaine') a *livre de gros* was of the value of six florins, or seven *livres* ten *sols tournois.*

† *Vide supra* No. 58, note.

a runaway apprentice of Simon Fraunceys, citizen of London, as it was a matter affecting the liberties of the said City.

No date. *French.*

**63.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Cicestre* (Chichester).

Roger Rotour, citizen of London, had complained that Phelipot Sombourne, burgess of their town, was indebted to him in the sum of 25*l.* sterling for merchandise lately bought at the fair of Winchester, not one penny of which had been received. Desire them to compel the said Phelipot to satisfy the said debt.

No date. *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same.

*Latin.*

**64.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges.*

John Palmer, of "Canterbirs" (Canterbury), barber, had received from Simon Gentil, "Laner,"* citizen of London, the sum of 40*l.* sterling, on Tuesday the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist (18th October) last past, wherewith to trade for the benefit of the said Simon from the said Feast until the Feast of Noel (25th December) next ensuing, and to render an account of the same, as by a deed sealed with the seal of the said John truly appears. He had, however, rendered no such account, and had betaken himself out of England, and was understood to be residing in their town of Bruges. They are, therefore, desired to compel him to render an account, and to do to the said Simon as law and reason demand, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 21st April, *s.a.* *French.*

* Woolstapler.

**65.** Letters patent of Andrew Aubrey, Mayor of the City of London.

Testifying that a certain letter of statute merchant,* whereby William de Holbeche and Roger de Flete, drapers, of London, had become bound to William de Burtone, Knight, in the sum of 200*l.* sterling, dated the 5th May, 25 Edward III. (A.D. 1351), had been discharged by them according to the terms of an indenture between the said parties, but was unlawfully retained by the said William. Sealed with the seals of the Mayoralty and of the parties aforesaid.

London, Monday, the Feast of St. George (23rd April), 26 Edward III. (A.D. 1352). *French.*

**66.** Letters patent of Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London.

Certifying that Walter de Faucombrigge,† Knight, Lord of Skelton (co. York), was alive and in good health, and had conversed with them in the said City of London on the 29th day of April, A.D. 1352. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty.

London, the day and year aforesaid. *French.*

**67.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of *Horsham* (co. Sussex).‡

John de Farnham had complained that John atte Nore and John Acresmythe, his merchants, having lately purchased

* A statute merchant was a bond of record, acknowledged before the Clerk of the Statutes Merchant and the Lord Mayor of the City of London, or two merchants assigned for that purpose, sealed with the seal of the debtor and the king, upon condition that if the obligor paid not his debt at the day, execution might be awarded against his body, lands, and goods till the debt was levied.

† Son of John de Fauconbrigge. Died anno 36 Edward III., having been married twice, (1) to Maud, sister to William de Pateshull, (2) to Isabel, sister to John Bigot.

‡ A marginal note states that this letter was sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty.

in their part of the country some oxen and other beasts to bring to London for the service of the King, the great folk, and commons of the land and of the said City, had been arrested, together with the merchandise of the said John de Farnham, by their bailiffs, and made to swear that they would not in future purchase any cattle for the purpose aforesaid, to the great prejudice of the King, the great folk, and commons of the land and City aforesaid. They are desired, therefore, to release both the merchants and their goods, and henceforth to allow merchants and their servants to pass to and fro without disturbance as hitherto, in order that there might be no occasion to lay the matter before the King and his Council owing to their default. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 5th May, *s.a.* *French.*

68. Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London, to Thomas de Wynkfeld, Steward of the Lady Countess of "Garenne,"* in the Town of *Dorkyng*, or his Deputy.

John Odierne, John de Farnham, John Lemman, Emond de Lenham, and John Vannere, citizens of London, had complained of distress having been taken from their goods and chattels for toll demanded of all merchandise passing through the said town of "Dorkyng," contrary to the liberties of the said City of London. He is, therefore, requested to deliver up to them the distress so taken, inasmuch as citizens of London are and ought to be† quit of all manner of toll throughout the King's dominion. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

* Isabel de Houland, second wife of John, Earl of Warren and Surrey, who died A.D. 1347. Dugdale's 'Baronage,' pt. i. p. 81.

† By charter of Henry I., confirmed by many subsequent charters.

**69.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Roucestre* (Rochester).

Requesting the surrender to Simon de Witton, citizen of London, of his goods and chattels which had been seized, when passing through their country, for the payment of his share of a fifteenth* granted to the King, inasmuch as all the goods of the said Simon within the King's realm had been already assessed in the City of London in respect of the same, and his share paid.

No date. *French.*

**70.** The same to the same.

Requesting the surrender of Laurence, son of Nicholas de Erlee, bound apprentice to Humfrey Aberford, armourer, who had suddenly left his master's service, and was understood to be residing in their town.

No date. *French.*

*Temp.* ANDREW AUBREY, MAYOR [A.D. 1351–2], *continued.*

**71.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Jurats of the Town of *Sandewiz* (Sandwich).

Had examined Ralph de Cauntebregge (Cambridge) and Juliana, his daughter, touching the statement made by Stephen Espelon, burgess of Sandwich, that he had on the Feast of St. Martin last (11th November) lent to Henry, son of the said Ralph, fifteen gold nobles, wherewith to pay for certain wheat which he alleged he had bought near Sandwich on his father's behalf. They had declared upon oath that for the last four years the said Henry had ceased

* Consisted originally of the fifteenth part of all a subject's movables granted to the Crown by Parliament. The amount was therefore uncertain, being levied by assessments new made at every fresh grant of the Commons; but it was at length reduced to a certainty in the eighth year of Edward III., so that when in later years a fifteenth was granted to the Crown, each town and parish knew its proportion, and then raised it by a rate among its inhabitants, and returned it into the royal exchequer.

to purchase any merchandise for them, and evidence had been adduced to show that for that period the said Ralph had refused to acknowledge any act of his son, and had, moreover, requested that no one should lend anything to the said Henry on his account. As a matter of courtesy, however, Robert de Erhethe, who had married the said Juliana, was ready to pay to the said Stephen the sum of twenty-five shillings at four different terms. If he preferred to come to London, or would send his attorney, and show how distress might be made on the said Henry, every assistance would be afforded him. But to prevent similar risks in future, they are asked to inform their folk that they lend not their goods to any citizen of London except at their own peril. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**72.** Letters patent of Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, John Wroth and Gilbert de Steyndrope, Sheriffs of the City of London.

Certifying that Robert de Heyleston, "prisoner cleyes-bak"* at St. Walrik,† in Picardy, is a citizen of London, and calling upon all persons to aid and assist him in his necessity.

London, 14th July, A.D. 1352. *French.*

A note to the effect that the above letter was sent at the request of John Brokas, Knight, upon the evidence of William Credil, Adam Maydestone, fripperer,‡ John Dunsterre, fripperer, and Gilbert Juel, "brasour,"§ that the said Robert de Heyleston was a freeman of the City of London.

*Latin.*

* This probably means that he had been taken prisoner by a pirate. Cf. *infra*, Letter No. 207, where certain mariners of Normandy who had plundered a vessel are called "billecokes claybakes," and others.

† St. Valery.

‡ A dealer in old clothes and furniture.

§ A brewer.

**73.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Counsellors of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Had heard from Thomas de Ware, citizen of London, as well as from other good folk of the same City, and merchant seamen of divers towns and ports of England, how that he had lately freighted a vessel called "La Cristemasse," of London, John atte Nasshe master, with wine, oil, pewter vessels, spurs, and divers other goods to the value of 231*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* sterling, as by his bills more fully appears; that whilst sailing in a place called "La Sheeld"* with other English vessels, on Tuesday next before the Feast of *Corpus Christi* last past, there came four ships of Flanders full of armed robbers, who seized all the goods in the ship of the said Thomas and killed some of the men who were on board, whilst others suffered shipwreck. It was reported that some of the robbers had been arrested in their country, with part of the merchandise which had belonged to the said Thomas in their possession. They are especially desired to bring them to justice, in order that the said Thomas may recover what he has lost, and that loyal merchants and seamen may pass the sea in safety as they had been accustomed. The Lord, &c.

London, 25th July, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull and merchants of the same town, testifying to the facts contained in the above letter. *Latin.*

**74.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Hanse† of the Merchants of Almaine at *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Notifying that John Littel, citizen of London, had appointed William de Newenton and John de Brusleye his

* The Scheldt.

† The Hanse or Guild of the Merchants of Almaine, otherwise called the Hanse of the Teutonics, was formed about the year 1169, though the Germans under

attorneys for prosecuting his plaint of trespass against certain merchants of Almaine, according to the tenor of the King's writ to them thereon directed.

London, the last day of July, A.D. 1352. *Latin.*

**75.** Power of attorney from William de Wandlesworth (Wandsworth), citizen of London, to John Chalk, draper, of New Sarum (co. Wilts), to recover, if need be, by action at law, the sum of 5*l.* 8*s.* sterling from Robert Bereford, spicer. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the City of London, his own seal being little known.

No date. *Latin.*

**76.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges.*

Had lately informed them* that Thomas Cheygner, mercer, citizen of London, was next heir to Roger Pottere, citizen of London, who had recently died in their country. Understood that fuller information was required as to the right of the said Thomas, and had therefore examined good and trustworthy citizens, and had discovered that Henry Cheygner, the father of the said Thomas, and the aforesaid Roger were descended from two brothers, and that the said Roger had no surviving heir but the said Thomas, who was thereupon seised of all his lands and tenements in England as his right heir. Pray them, therefore, to make inquiry as to the possessions of the said Roger in their country, and to cause them to be delivered to the said Thomas without further delay.

No date. *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the facts contained in the above letter. *Latin.*

the name of "Easterlings," or "the Emperor's men," are supposed to have traded here as early as the time of Ethelred II. The guild flourished in London as the "Merchants of the Steelyard" till the time of Queen Elizabeth, when their special privileges were abolished by royal decree.

* Letter No. 57, *supra.*

*Temp.* ANDREW AUBREY, MAYOR [A.D. 1351—2], *continued.*

**77.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of *Croydon.*

Had searched the Remembrances at the Guildhall which are of record, and had found that John, son of William Mot, of Croydon, was bound apprentice to Robert Chober, "hurere,"* citizen of London, whose service he had suddenly quitted contrary to his oath, and was understood to be residing in their town. They are, therefore, desired to assist the said Robert to recover him, as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 15th August, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Hechene* (Hitchin, co. Herts), on behalf of Richard Dygoun, weaver, for the recovery of Adam Tristram, of "Hechene," his apprentice.

6th October, *s.a.* *Latin.*

**78.** Letter obligatory whereby Thomas de Baa, of *Sewelle* (co. Northampton), becomes bound to Sir William de Ilkestone, Rector of the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, in the sum of 16*l.* 6*s.* sterling, to be repaid in two instalments. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the City of London in addition to his own, which to many was unknown.

London, Thursday, the vigil of the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle (24th August), 26 Edward III. (A.D. 1352).

*Latin.*

* A maker of hures, or rough hairy caps. The hurers or cappers were united by charter of Henry VII. to the hatter-merchants in the sixteenth year of his reign, and again united, in the following year, to the haberdashers, by the King's licence under his great seal. City Records, Letter Book M, folios 27, 56*b.*

79. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Desiring them to assist Richard de Greylond, "pessoner,"* citizen of London, to recover possession of George de Fordham, his runaway apprentice, who was understood to be residing in their town, that he might bring him back to the City of London to serve him according to the customs of the said City, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 6th September, *s.a.* *French.*

80. Letter of attorney from John de Preston, citizen and "corder" of London, to his friend Robert de Oxenford, burgess of *Bristut* (Bristol).

To recover from John Bromle, residing in "Bristut," late his tenant in Southwark, divers goods and chattels which he had removed from his brewhouse. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the City of London in addition to his own, which was not sufficiently known.

London, Thursday next before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September), 26 Edward III. (A.D. 1352).

*French.*

81. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Cauntebregge* (Cambridge), under seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that Esmon de Cone, goldsmith, citizen of London, who had been arrested by the said bailiffs when he was travelling in their part of the country with goods and chattels to the value of forty pounds sterling, on suspicion that he had dishonestly come by them, was a good man and loyal, and praying, therefore, that for love's sake they may be

* Fishmonger.

restored entire to him, that there might be no necessity to write again on the same subject. The Lord, &c.

No date. *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the character of the said Esmon, and a note of similar letters having been sent to the same, under the common seal of the City of London, and also to Robert de Thorpe and his fellow justices in the county of Cambridge, on behalf of the same. *Latin.*

**82.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to John de Madenhuthe.

Martyn le Gardiler, drover, citizen of London, had complained that a sum of money had been taken from William Hobbe, of Staundone, his servant, whilst on his way to the North to purchase cattle for him, by the bailiffs of the town of "Seynt Botouf,"* on suspicion that he had dishonestly come by the same. It was understood that the money had been handed over to him by the said bailiffs. He is desired, therefore, to restore the same to Thomas Aubrey, citizen of London, and attorney of the said Martyn, as it had been proved, on good evidence, that the said William was a good man and loyal, and had received the money for the purpose aforesaid; and to send word by bearer what he shall have done, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject. 11th October, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of *St. Botolph* on the same subject. *Latin.*

**83.** Andrew Aubrey, Mayor, &c., to the Bailiffs of *Oxenford* (Oxford).

Desiring them to restore to John Jordan, citizen of London, or his attorney, the cloths, silver spoons, hanap of mazer,†

* St. Botolph's town, or Boston, co. Lincoln.

† *Vide* Letter No. 23, *supra*, note ‡.

and other goods and chattels, to the value of ten pounds sterling, which they had found in the possession of Margaret de Marcherne, servant to the said John, who had robbed her master of the same and had run away, and been arrested by them in their town.

Date illegible. *French.*

*Temp.* ANDREW AUBREY, MAYOR [A.D. 1351—2], *continued.*

**84.** The Mayor, Aldermen, &c., to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Gloucestre* (Gloucester).

Informing them of the preceding letter, to which the bailiffs of Oxford had replied that ere its arrival they had already given up to the aforesaid Margaret the goods which they had seized on suspicion, owing to a letter sealed with the seal of the town of Gloucester, which they had received, testifying to the good character of the said Margaret, a copy of which had been forwarded to the writers. They are desired, therefore, to make restitution to the aforesaid John Jordan, or his attorney, of the said goods and chattels which, by reason of their letter, had been wrongfully surrendered, that there might be no necessity for annoying their folk repairing to London, owing to their default.

27th October, *s.a.* *French.*

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* ADAM FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1352—4].

**85.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Certifying that Johane, the younger daughter of Waryn Fattyng, citizen of London and bearer of these letters, is the next heir to Johane her sister, the elder daughter of the same, late wife of Oliver Feryng, burgess of their town, who had died seised of lands and tenements in their country; and

praying, therefore, that they will assist her in vindicating her title, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord, &c.

10th November, *s.a.* *French.*

**86.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Noef Chasteal* (Newcastle).

Certifying that the ship which Richard, the servant of John de Mutford, citizen of London, lately freighted with forty-four quarters of oats, two quarters of corn, two quarters of hay, and eight barrels of other merchandise, bound for the City of London, had been discharged in the said City the 16th day of November last past.

London, 22nd November, *s.a.* *French.*

**87.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Shipstowe* (? Chepstow, co. Monmouth).

Roger Bountayn, residing in London, had complained that when lately travelling in their part of the country he had been arrested by their bailiff on suspicion of his being a bad man, and that 10*s.* 6*d.* in money, two chains and a ring of silver of the value of 5*s.*, and a robe trimmed with white budge,* of the value of 7*s.* 6*d.*, had been taken from him and were still detained. The said Roger had been found, on trustworthy evidence, to have resided in London for fifteen years and more, and had always conducted himself as a good and loyal man. They are, therefore, desired, for love's sake, to restore to him the goods and chattels which he had lost.

London, 1st September, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the loyalty of the above Roger Bountayn. *Latin.*

* Lambskin with the wool dressed outwards, often worn on the edges of capes, as gowns of Bachelors of Arts are still made.

88. The same to the Abbot* of *Seynt Auban* (St. Albans).

Desiring him to cause his bailiffs to give up to John Cokk, drover, citizen of London, four oxen of divers colours, which had strayed from a pasture near "Haryngeye," in the county of Middlesex, into his lordship; one of which had been brought by his farmer, John de Chiltern, to "Langele," and the other three to the town of St. Albans.

London, 9th January, *s.a.* *French.*

89. The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Lesclus* (Sluys), in Flanders.

Aubrey, the widow and executrix of John de Bedeford, late citizen of London, and divers other trustworthy folks, had publicly testified that Herman de Honyfeld had been bound to Pieres Plate, burgess of "Lesclus," on behalf of the said John, in seven *livres* "*des grotz*,"† which the said Aubrey had, since the death of her husband, received. They are, therefore, desired to put a stop to any action that might be brought before them against the said Herman for the recovery of the said debt. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 19th January, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a precisely similar letter having been sent to the same on Saturday next after the Feast of the Ascension, 27 Edward III. (A.D. 1353), and afterwards another to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges*, dated 23rd May in the same year. *Latin.*

* Thomas de la Mare, a munificent benefactor to the Abbey. He was Abbot at the time the rebellion under Wat Tyler broke out. The rebels marched to St. Albans and demanded the right to hunt and fish over the lands and waters of the Abbey, but were put down by the approach of King Richard II. in person, accompanied by his Treasurer, Sir Robert Tressilian, and an armed force. He died at an advanced age in 1389.

† *Vide* Letter No. 60, *supra*, note.

**90.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Seynt Auban* (St. Albans).

Certifying that two oxen which had been seized by them as belonging to John le Honte, who was bringing them to London, in reality belonged to John Cok, drover and citizen of London, his master, and requesting the delivery of the same to him, the said John Cok, or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject.

London, 24th January, *s.a.* *French.*

**91.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Gloucestre* (Gloucester), under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Reminding them of a former letter* addressed to them, dated the 27th day of October, and expressing surprise that nothing had been done by them. Again desire them, in order to preserve the existing good feeling, both to restore to John Jordan, citizen of London, the goods and chattels of which he had been robbed by his servant Margaret de Merchern, to whom the bailiffs of Oxford had restored the same by reason of the testimony borne by the bailiffs of Gloucester in her favour, and at the same time to make good any loss he may have sustained on that account. They are to have the goodness to certify by letters by bearer what they shall have done. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 26th January, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same, under the Common Seal, dated 3rd September. *Latin.*

**92.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges.*

On the same subject as No. 76, *supra.*

Understood that they desired to know the amount of

* Letter No. 84, *supra.*

goods in England belonging to Roger Pottere at the time of his decease in Flanders. Upon examination it had been found that all the property of the said Roger, after paying his debts, amounted to sixteen pounds sterling, English money; and, further, it had been proved, on the evidence of trustworthy persons who were present at his death in the house of John Remmakere* of "Lesclus" (Sluys), that there had been found upon him sixty-three nobles in gold pieces and twenty shillings in one parcel, and twelve pounds sterling, English money, in another parcel, also a bond in 120 crowns of Flemish money, all of which had been handed over to Jacob Marestaple,† burgess of Bruges, in presence of witnesses. They are desired to see that if any portion of the above be applied by the said Jacob or by any one else otherwise than it ought according to the customs and laws of Flanders, restitution be made to the right heir or to John Henkele, his attorney, clerk of the Staple‡ of the English Company.

London, 29th January, *s.a.* *French.*

**93.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Redynge* (Reading).

Desiring them for love's sake to deliver up to Nicholas Ploket and John de Hardyngham, citizens of London, or to their attorney, the bearer of these letters, three "sarplers" and one "poket" of wool belonging to them, which they had recently purchased from a merchant of Salisbury to carry to "Redynge," where it had remained in the custody

* Or Le Remmakere. † Or De Marestaple.

‡ In order to encourage trade with the Flemings Staples had at various times been established in Flanders. But owing to the serious losses sustained by the people of England by reason that the Staple of wool, leather, and woolfells was held without the realm, it was about this period (viz., by the Statute of Staples, mentioned *supra*, No. 17, note) ordained that from thenceforth the Staples should be held at certain specified places in England, Wales, and Ireland, and not elsewhere. Walsingham, p. 278; City Records, Letter Book G, fol. 7.

of Hugh Croft; that there might be no necessity to write again on the same subject. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 2nd February, *s.a.* *French.*

**94.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Canterbirs* (Canterbury).

Desiring them to assist Hamond Colbrond, "corder," citizen of London, to recover his runaway apprentice, John le Chaundeler, son of Peter le Chaundeler de "Canterbirs," who was understood to be residing in their city; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 7th February, *s.a.* *French.*

*Temp.* ADAM FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1352—4], *continued.*

**95.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Huntyngdone.*

Expressing surprise that nothing had been done in respect of a former letter, wherein they had been desired to restore to Robert Berd, "brasiere" and citizen of London, the distress they had taken for custom claimed by them on all merchandise passing through their country. Again request them to restore the same, inasmuch as the said Robert and all who are of the franchise of the City of London are and ought to be quit* of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 20th February, *s.a.* *French.*

**96.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Gypeswyz* (Ipswich).

Desiring them similarly to restore to Stephen Bayon, merchant† of Bernard Dyos, citizen of London, the distress

* *Vide* Letter No. 68, *supra*, note †.

† Cf. Letter No. 11, *supra*, note.

they had taken from his merchandise when passing through their part of the country, contrary to the liberties of the City of London. The Lord, &c.

20th March, *s.a.* *French.*

**97.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Maldon.*

Requesting them to restore to John de Wymondeham, citizen of London, the distress they had taken of tenpence per mark on the purchase money lately paid by him to the executors of Robert Brian, of Wodeham, for a messuage in their town of Maldon, as being contrary to the liberties of the City of London. The Lord have them in his keeping.

21st March, *s.a.* *French.*

**98.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Sandwiz* (Sandwich).

Desiring them to cause John de Neubury, baker, residing in their part of the country, to pay to William de Henneye, citizen of London, the sum of 40*s.* sterling, due for four quarters of corn which he had lately purchased from him; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier when repairing to London. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, the last day of March, *s.a.* *French.*

**99.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Jernemue* (Yarmouth).

Gilbert de Meldebourne, citizen of London, had complained that Beraud de Gascoigne and Johane, his wife, had lived at his table from the Feast of All Saints (1st November) last past up to the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady (2nd February) next ensuing, when it was found that the said Beraud was indebted to the said Gilbert to the extent of 34*s.*, and that he and his wife had suddenly left the City by night without satisfying him of the debt, and were now

believed to be staying in their town. They are, therefore, desired to compel the said Beraud to pay the same to the said Gilbert or to John de Bedeford, burgess of Yarmouth, his attorney, in such manner as they would wish their folk repairing to London to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord, &c.

13th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**100.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Faversham.*

John de Hatfeld, chandler, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he and Nicholas Dagh, of Faversham, had been joint owners of a ship called a "Crayere"* since the Feast of All Saints (1st November) in the twenty-third year of the reign of the lord the King that now is (A.D. 1349), he had not received his moiety of the profit therefrom. They are, therefore, desired to cause the said Nicholas to appear and satisfy the said John, or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, of the said moiety due.

19th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**101.** The same to the same.

Desiring them to compel Nicholas Dagh, of Faversham, to render an account to John de Hatfeld, chandler, of money received on the Feast of All Saints in the twenty-third year of the reign of the lord the King that now is (A.D. 1349), wherewith to trade for the profit of the said John until the Feast of Easter next ensuing.

23rd April, *s.a.* *French.*

**102.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Southampton.*

Roger Rotour and Thomas de Bonwode, citizens of London, had complained of a distress having been taken from their merchandise for "pesage,"† which was claimed on all merchandise passing through their parts, contrary

* A small merchant ship.

† A custom or duty paid for weighing commodities.

to the liberties of the said City of London. They are, therefore, requested to restore the distress so taken, inasmuch as all who are of the franchise of the said City are and ought to be quit of "pesage" and of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. The Lord have them in his keeping.

22nd April, *s.a.* *French.*

**103.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Gippeswiz* (Ipswich).

Desiring them to restore the distress they had taken from Thomas Pyeke, draper and citizen of London, for custom which they claimed on all merchandise passing through their parts, contrary to the liberties of the said City of London.

London, the last day of April, *s.a.* *French.*

**104.** The same to the same.

Expressing surprise that nothing had been done in respect of the above letter, and again requesting the restitution of the distress taken from the aforesaid Thomas Pyeke, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject, nor for annoying their folk repairing to London, owing to their default. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 7th May, *s.a.* *French.*

**105.** Letters patent of Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London, under seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that John de Farnham, of "Estchepe,"* "bochier,"† was a citizen of London, and quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion.

London, 7th May, 27 Edward III. (A.D. 1353). *French.*

* Eastcheap, a great "ceap" or market of London in the Anglo-Saxon times, in contradistinction to West Chepe, the market held in the locality now known as Cheapside. As early as the thirteenth century it was one of the butchers' markets of London.

† Butcher.

**106.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Assessors, and Collectors of the Fifteenth* granted to the King in the Town of *Redyng* (Reading).

Desiring them to restore the distress which they had taken from the goods and chattels of John Catour, vintner, citizen of London, when passing through their town, for the payment of his share of a fifteenth granted to the King, inasmuch as all the goods and chattels of the said John within the King's dominion had been already assessed in the City of London in respect of the same, and his share paid. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 3rd June, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs, &c., of *Aillesbury* (Aylesbury) on behalf of William de Sarum, in respect of pledges taken for custom called "stallage,"† dated 6th June; and of another, on behalf of the same, sent to the Bailiffs of *Kyngestone* (Kingston) in respect of custom taken from him, of the same date.

Also of a letter sent to the Prior and Convent of *Latton* (co. Essex) for the recovery of a runaway apprentice of Henry Staverne, dated 7th June.

*Latin.*

**107.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Walter de Kelshull, tailor and citizen of London, had complained that four robes which he had cut and made up, belonging to good folk of the said City, had been removed out of his possession, and were now understood to be in the possession of one Walter de Dyvelyn in their town. He could produce samples of the cloth of the said robes in evidence of the truth of his statement; they are, therefore, desired for love's sake to seize the robes

* *Vide* Letter No. 69, *supra*, note.

† Money paid for the right of erecting stalls in fairs and markets.

and to put him to the proof, according to law and reason and the custom of their town.

London, 7th June, *s.a.* *French.*

*Temp.* ADAM FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1352—4], *continued.*

**108.** The same to the Earl of Angos* and Lord of *Kyme* (co. Lincoln).

Desiring him to restore to William Malwayn, citizen of London, the distress which had been taken by the bailiffs of the lordship of Kyme from his goods and chattels for custom demanded on all wools passing through the said lordship, inasmuch as the said William and all who are of the franchise of the City of London are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. Should he desire anything on his part, they (the writers) would be ready to do what they could.

London, 17th June, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Sleford* (co. Lincoln) on behalf of the said William.

*Latin.*

**109.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Wyncestre* (Winchester).

Testifying to the good character of Roger de Devonshire, servant of John de Triple, citizen of London, who had been arrested and put into prison by the said bailiffs, and praying his release.

London, 4th July, *s.a.* *French.*

* Gilbert de Umfreville, summoned to Parliament as Earl of Angus from A.D. 1332 to 1380, one of the commissioners appointed by the King to treat with Scotland for the ransom of David Bruce in 1356. Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 325.

**110.** Power of attorney from Nicholas Blake, citizen and vintner of London, to William de Pountfreyt and Thomas Clay, to recover against Alexander de Hiltoft, citizen of London and haberdasher, and Thomas de Godicote, citizen and cordwainer, the sum of 400 marks in which they were indebted to him. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the City of London, his own seal not being sufficiently known.

London, Saturday next before the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr (3rd July), 27 Edward III. (A.D. 1353). *Latin.*

**111.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to William de Nottone and his Fellow Justices set over Labourers,* Servants, and other Folk in the Town of *Seynt Auban* (St. Albans).

Setting forth that Roger Hackesalt and Robert de Shilyngtone, workers in wood for saddles, without which neither the great folk of the land nor the common people can be served, had been disturbed in their craft, which they had always exercised, not knowing nor using any other; and that if they be disturbed neither the saddle makers nor the "Fuisters"† of the City can follow their craft, nor serve the great folk of the land nor the common people. Pray, therefore, that the said Roger and Robert may be permitted to exercise their trade as heretofore for the common weal. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 15th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**112.** The same to the Prior‡ and Convent of the Town of *Seynt Auban* (St. Albans).

A similar letter to the above, desiring them to command

* By the Statute of Labourers, 23 Edward III., commissioners were appointed to supervise workmen.

† Joiners or makers of the woodwork of saddles.

‡ Thomas de la Mare. *Vide* Letter No. 88, *supra*, note.

John de Wynselowe and Thomas Morteyn, their bailiffs, to allow the said Roger Hackesalt and Robert de Shilyngtone to follow their trade, and not to hinder them as they from malice had done, that there might be no necessity to bring the matter before the King and his Council, nor to annoy their folk repairing to London, which thing they (the writers) would be loth to do. The Lord, &c.

London, 21st July, *s.a.* *French.*

**113.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges.*

Certifying that John de Triple, citizen of London, had recently recovered in the Sheriffs' Court the sum of 17*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* against Matthew Restor, goldsmith, who had stood surety for his brother, John Restor, for that amount, due to the said John de Triple for wool purchased of him. Desire them to cause the said John Restor, who is residing in their parts, to repay the same to his brother. The Lord, &c.

24th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**114.** The same to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Ware.*

Testifying to the good character of John atte Lofte, of "Euerwyk" (York), mercer, and desiring them for love's sake to restore the horse and other goods and chattels, to the value of 40*s.* sterling, which had been taken from him, when travelling in their parts, on suspicion that he had unlawfully come by them. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 26th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**115.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Sandwiz* (Sandwich).

Desiring them to hear a complaint of Maude de Wortham, residing in the City of London, who had many times suffered

annoyance and hurt from John de Wesenham, their "Justizable," and to do therein as law and reason demand for love's sake, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 27th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**116.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Suthampton* (Southampton).

Adam de Wymondham, citizen of London and mercer, had complained that Jordan de Parys and Giles de Caumbrey, merchants, having purchased "mercerie"* of him to the value of 100*l.* sterling, had left the City without paying him. Desire them, therefore, to compel the said Jordan and Giles, who are understood to be in their parts, to satisfy the said Adam or his attorney, the bearer, of the said debt. The Lord, &c.

6th August, *s.a.* *French.*

**117.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, &c. [of the City of London], to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Peter Furlour, merchant of "Bristut," had complained that "Eleyne," the mother of Richard Neville, his apprentice, had maliciously accused him of having killed her son. The evidence of trustworthy witnesses, which they are asked to believe, showed that on Tuesday before the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady (8th September), in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of the King (Edward III.), the said Richard had taken leave of his master to go to Ware on a visit to his friends, to return on the third day next ensuing; that he had departed in good health on the said day and year, and had not returned. The Lord, &c.

12th August, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter.

* Mercery, small or fine goods and wares, as distinguished from those sold in gross.

**118.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Maydenstane* (Maidstone).

Alice, wife of Richard Herle, "jueler," citizen of London, had complained that her husband had been arrested by them on suspicion, together with jewels of gold and silver, broken pieces of silver, and similar things appertaining to his trade, to the value of 100*s.* sterling and more, and was still in confinement, contrary to law and reason. They are requested to release him and restore to him his goods entire, as he is a man of good character and had lawfully come by the same. The Lord, &c.

13th August, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to Reginald de Cobham, Knt., Governor of the Town of *Calles* (Calais) and Constable of *Gynes* (Guisnes), concerning Peter Hiltoft, apprentice to Robert de Walcote, goldsmith, dated 6th September.

*Latin.*

**119.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen, &c. [of the City of London], to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Gippeswyz* (Ipswich).

Robert de Appelby, Sergeant-at-Arms, and William de Aumesbury had complained that Naudyn de Bleynes, merchant of "Burdeux" (Bordeaux), was indebted to the said Robert in the sum of 10*l.* sterling, for goods purchased in the said town of "Burdeux," and to the said William in six tuns of wine, neither of which had been paid. It was understood that the said Naudyn had now four ships laden with salt* at their town of "Gippeswyz"; they are requested, therefore, to summon him before them, and, after hearing both parties, to do therein as law and reason demand. The Lord, &c.

London, 9th September, *s.a.* *French.*

* *Ciel*, perhaps oil. *Vide* Kelham's 'Dictionary of the Norman or Old French Language,' *s.v.* "Seel."

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Cantebrege* (Cambridge) on behalf of J. de Warre, "shechere,"* concerning Laurence, his apprentice, dated 14th September; and of another to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Haveryng-atte-Boure* (co. Essex), on behalf of John Fresoll, dyer, concerning Richard Merable, his apprentice, dated 18th September.

*Latin.*

*Temp.* ADAM FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1352—4], *continued.*

**120.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the City of *Euerwyk* (York).

Certifying, upon trustworthy evidence, that John de Brigge, of the county of "Euerwyk," had arrived in the City of London the 2nd day of September last past, and had resided continuously therein until the 14th day of the same month.

London, 6th October, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Sheriffs of *Euerwyk*, of the same date; also names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter.

A note of a letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Lenne* (Lynn, co. Norfolk) on behalf of Peter Ruget, armourer, for the recovery of John, his apprentice.

*Latin.*

**121.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Judges and Justiciary of the City of *Valentia*, in the Kingdom of Arragon.

Testifying that Peter Moyen, merchant of Valentia, had lately sold to divers merchants of the City of London twenty cases of soap as being of a good quality and marketable;

* Qy. a sheather, or maker of sheaths for knives.

but so great deceit was found to have been practised in the manufacture of the said soap, that he had lost by the sale thereof the sum of 13*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* besides damages in respect of the said deceit. Wish them farewell in the Saviour of all.

London, 6th November, *s.a.* *Latin.*

**122.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to William de Sharshulle and William Basset, Justices of the Lord the King.

Desiring their favour towards Henry de Sutton, citizen of London and Bailiff of Southwark, who had been maliciously indicted by some person badly disposed towards him; and asking them, if possible, to wait until they should come to London, as they could there be more fully informed touching the matters relating to him. They might confidently rely upon the writers in any wish they might express. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 9th November, *s.a.* *French.*

**123.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of *Gloucestre* (Gloucester).

Desiring them to compel Thomas, son of William Porter, of "Gloucestre," to satisfy Andrew Aubrey, citizen of London, of a debt of 100*s.* sterling, which had been owing for a long time.

London, 21st November, *s.a.* *French.*

**124.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Certifying that John Pelegrym "fitz Loth" and William Crudener, merchants of "Lesclus," had satisfied John Bartelot, citizen of London, of the sum of 3*l.* 13*s.* due for merchandise.

London, 11th January, *s.a.* *French.*

**125.** The same to John Salkyn, Henry Lyderer, William Ferthinge, and Richard Deushe, of the Isle of *Tenet* (Thanet).

Whereas Richard Bacon and John de Cologne, citizens of London, and Albert del Putte, merchant of Almaine, had lately freighted a ship of Flanders at "Lesclus" (Sluys), John Sak master, with fourteen lasts of herrings in barrels, bound for London, which ship, being driven by stress of weather to the Isle of "Tenet," was there wrecked; and whereas it was understood that a portion of the said herrings had been saved by their assistance, and remained still in their custody: they are especially desired to deliver up the same to the said Albert del Putte, attorney of the said Richard and John, receiving from him a reasonable remuneration for their trouble. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be ready to do what they could.

London, 12th January, *s.a.* *French.*

**126.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Dunkyrk*, in Flanders.

Desiring them to cause the heir and executors of John le White, formerly a burgess of their town and now deceased, to pay to William de Braynford, citizen and fishmonger of London, the sum of twelve golden crowns and three barrels of salt,* of the value of 12*s.* sterling, which he had lent to the said John, and had not been repaid.

London, 23rd January, *s.a.* *French.*

**127.** [The same to * * * * *]

Desiring them to restore to Richard de Depham, citizen of London, or Robert his brother, the bearer of these letters, the 473 cheeses with which he had lately freighted a vessel at "Erhiche" (Erith), and which had been seized and were still detained by them without reasonable cause; and if any were missing to make restitution, lest complaint be made to the King and his Council. No date. *French.*

* *Seel.* *Vide* Letter No. 119, *supra*, note.

## *Temp.* ADAM FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1352—4], *continued.*

**128.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of *Woburnchapele* (co. Beds).

Desiring them to give up the person of John, son of William Wyncestre, cordwainer and citizen of London, to Sir Thomas de Buterlee, chaplain, the bearer of these letters, and next friend to the said John, who, being an orphan,* had by fraud and malice been removed out of the City of London into their bailiwick, contrary to the liberties and customs of the said City.

London, 18th February, *s.a.* *French.*

**129.** The same to the Chancellor of Henry, Duke of Lancaster.†

Informing him that Ralph de Stanfeld, felmonger, the bearer of these letters, was a citizen of London, and should enjoy the franchise of the said City throughout the King's dominion, and desiring him to command the bailiffs and officers of the said Henry, Duke of Lancaster, to allow the said Ralph to go to and fro with his merchandise, quit of all manner of custom in his seignory. Should he desire anything on his part, they would be ready to do what they could. The Lord have him in his keeping.

London, 19th February, *s.a.* *French.*

**130.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Covyntre* (Coventry).

John de Gonwardby, citizen of London, had complained that Roger de Boydon, burgess of their town, was indebted to him in the sum of 9*l.* 10*s.* sterling, for merchandise lately bought of him in London, not one penny of which had been paid. Desire them, therefore, to compel the said Roger to satisfy

* Concerning the right of the Corporation of the City of London to the custody of orphans, *vide* Letter No. 253, *infra*, note.

† *Vide* Letter No. 58, *supra*, note.

the said claim, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 6th March, *s.a.* *French.*

**131.** Letters patent of Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London.

Certifying that John Restor, burgess of Bruges, was at liberty to visit the said City without fear of arrest at the suit of John de Triple, citizen of London. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of the said City, and also with the seal of the said John de Triple.

London, 17th March, *s.a.* *French.*

**132.** Letter testimonial* [from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London] to the Pope, on behalf of Cesario,† Bishop of Sancta Maria de Rosis, recommending him for ecclesiastical preferment as being a man of exemplary character. No date. *Latin.*

A note that the above letter is entered in Letter Book G, fol. 17.

**133.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Lynne* (co. Norfolk).

Informing them that William Burghwell, citizen of London, had lately purchased in the county of Cambridge 120 quarters of wheat to carry to the said City of London, and had shipped it on board a small vessel, William Muriel of "Recher" being master; and desiring them to let the same pass free of custom, inasmuch as the said William Burghwell and all who are of the franchise of the City of London are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. Should they desire anything on their part,

* Printed in Riley's 'Memorials of London,' p. 273.

† *Vide* Letter No. 52, *supra.*

they (the writers) would be ready to do what they could. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 29th March, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Oxford* on behalf of William de Mortone, weaver, for the recovery of his apprentice John, son of Robert atte Hegge, of Sutton, dated 1st April. *Latin.*

**134.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Huntyngdone* (Huntingdon).

Complaining of their bailiffs having taken distress from four carts carrying cloths through their country, belonging to Adam Fraunceys, citizen of London, for custom which they demanded, contrary to the franchise of the said City of London; and praying them, therefore, to restore the distress so taken, that there might be no occasion to write again on the same subject, nor to annoy their folk repairing to London, owing to their default.

London, 11th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**135.** Adam Fraunceys, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Bristut* (Bristol).

Had heard a complaint of Nicholas Chapman, burgess of "Bristut," that his goods, and the goods of John de Stoke, burgess of the same, had been seized by their bailiffs on the King's writ, at the suit of Henry Bondequere, for certain matters touching Elys Fraunceys, citizen of London, and Hamond Colbrond. Pray them to send a copy of the said writ and cause of seizure, and to delay execution until they arrive, accepting in the mean time sufficient security for the goods, as it was understood that the said Nicholas and John would be relieved of the arrest by process of law.

London, 14th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**136.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Suth*[*ampton*].

Certain trustworthy citizens of London had certified on oath that Roger Wodeby, William de Brakyngburgh, and Symon Gentil had lately freighted a ship at "Lesclus" (Sluys), in Flanders, Peter Spynathe master, with goods to the value of 900 crowns, to be carried to London for a stipulated sum, with orders that the said Peter should not depart until certain other large English vessels were prepared to sail thither. In the absence, however, of the said Roger, William, and Symon at Bruges, he had set sail before his time, voyaging whithersoever he pleased, and nothing had since been seen either of him or the merchandise. He was now understood to have come to their town of "Suthampton." Pray them, therefore, to arrest him and his goods, and compel him to give satisfaction, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 4th May, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter.

**137.** [The same] to John de Beauchamp,* Admiral of the South.

Certifying that Servoise Gomaus, merchant of "Dynaunt,"† who had complained that his goods had been seized by the mayor and bailiffs of "Dovor" in the ship "John Petressone" of "Lesclus" (Sluys), they believing him to be a freeman of the City of London, is not free of the same, but resides in the said City as a merchant stranger of the Hanse of Almaine.‡

London, 10th June, *s.a.* *French.*

* A younger son of Guy, Earl of Warwick; one of the founders of the Order of the Garter; buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

† Dinant on the Meuse, one of the towns of the Hanseatic League.

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 74, *supra*, note †.

**138.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the City of *Dyvelyn* (Dublin), in Ireland.

Had heard on trustworthy evidence that John de Hilton, pewterer, citizen of London, lately had a servant named Agnes, believing her to be unmarried. It had, however, since been discovered that she was the wife of Richard Taverner, of "Ikelyngtone," residing in their city of Dublin, to whose house she had carried divers goods and chattels belonging to her master, having broken open his coffers whilst he was away at the fair at St. Ives, and taken goods to the value of 30*l.* 14*s.* as appears by the parcels subjoined, to wit: in gold, 10*l.*; in silver counted, 6*l.*; two pieces of silver, value 26*s.* 8*d.*; fourteen spoons of silver, value 20*s.*; one hanap of mazer,* value 16*s.*; two pairs of "paternostrers"† of amber, value 22*s.*; one piece of medley cloth,‡ value 100*s.*; one long robe with the "pelure,"§ value 33*s.* 4*d.*; one short robe, value 20*s.*; one stone called "pelitote,"‖ value 16*s.*; rings of gold, value 20*s.*; and divers pieces of "naperie,"¶ value 20*s.* And whereas the said John is not in a fit state to travel, they are desired to assist John Walshe, the bearer of these letters, acting as his attorney, in the recovery of the said goods and chattels, and in bringing the said Richard and Agnes to justice.

London, 16th December, *s.a.* *French.*

**139.** The same to the Bailiffs and "Barouns" of the Town of *Hastyngges* (Hastings).

Had received their letter wherein they appear to think that an ordinance had recently been made touching the

* *Vide* Letter No. 23, *supra*, note ‡.

† Rosaries or prayer-beads.

‡ Cloth made of mixed materials.

§ Prepared lambskin or goatskin, known as "budge."

‖ Some kind of precious stone. See Hunter's 'Nominale,' Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 24,535, fol. 135, "1 annulus aureus cum 1 pelitot," taken from an Inventory of Queen Isabel after her death, *temp.* Edward III. See also Ducange, *s.v.* "Pelido."

¶ Table linen.

measure of baskets for fish sent to the City of London, and assure them that no ordinance whatever had recently been made in that respect, but that in the time of King Edward I.* it was decreed that fishmongers of the City of London and their partners should see that their baskets were *convenient*, that is to say, that they should contain but one kind of fish, and should not be *dubbed*, that is to say, have good fish placed at the top and an inferior kind placed beneath them, and that they should be of the measure of one bushel. These ordinances were at the time publicly proclaimed, and in cases of defect the baskets had been burnt† in Chepe. They had moreover been acknowledged by men of the trade to be of ancient usage, and warning had been sent to their town to remedy any defects that might have existed. They are, therefore, desired to make this public to prevent further inconvenience. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 5th June, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Lenne*, under seal of the Mayoralty, on behalf of John Cherte, "pouche-makere," for the recovery of Roger, son of Robert de St. Albans, his apprentice, dated 18th August.

*Latin.*

*Temp.* THOMAS LEGGY, MAYOR [A.D. 1354—5], *continued.*

**140.** The Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Prior Provincial, Masters in Divinity, Bachelors, "listres" Priors, and all the other Brethren of

* Anno 8 Edward I. *Vide* 'Liber Albus' (Master of the Rolls Series), pp. 378, 379, 381.

† An instance of this is recorded as having occurred anno 1 Edward II., in which year, on Saturday next after the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, certain fishmongers were sworn to hold a scrutiny of all fish baskets which did not contain a bushel of corn, according to the statute; and on the very same day they seized eight baskets, which were produced before the Mayor and Aldermen at the Guildhall, and being examined and found too small were condemned to be burnt in Chepe. Letter Book C, fol. 92 *b*.

the Order of St. Augustine in the Provincial Chapter of *Tykhulle* (co. York).

Desiring them to allow Richard Savage to commence in divinity, in accordance with his original purpose, notwithstanding lapse of time, inasmuch as he had always led a blameless life, was a credit to their Order, and a blessing to all strangers repairing to the City of London. If they granted this request, they would find the writers most favourable to their Order. The Holy Spirit increase them in holy religion.

London, 9th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**141.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Town of *Neof chastel* (Newcastle) *on Tyne.*

Acknowledging the receipt of their letter requesting the surrender of John de Tesdale, saddler, apprenticed to Thomas de Hexham, saddler, burgess of Newcastle, who had run away, and was now understood to be in the service of John de Blithe, saddler, citizen of London. The said apprentice had been found to have bound himself to John Dexcestre, saddler, citizen of London, for a term of three years, and he had been handed over, as requested, to Thomas David to carry back to his former master. And whereas John, son of John Doxenford, of the county of Gloucester, had been bound apprentice to the same John Dexcestre, according to the custom of the City of London, for a term of seven years, and had run away, and was now understood to be in their town and living with the aforesaid Thomas de Hexham, they are desired to deliver him up in like manner as the beforementioned apprentice had been delivered to them.

London, 18th August, *s.a.* *French.*

**142.** Thomas Leggy, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to Raynald Dyke, Sheriff of Kent.

Desiring him to render all legitimate assistance he can

to William de Neubury, "comune servaunt" and clerk of the Chapel of St. Thomas* on London Bridge, who had been arrested within his jurisdiction at the suit of one William de Bukkeby, parson of the church of St. Mary "Aldermannes cherche,"† who, with others, had a mind to annoy the said William de Neubury in every manner possible. Should he desire anything on his part, he would find them ready. Adieu, &c.

London, 19th August, *s.a.* *French.*

**143.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bartone on Hombre* (Barton-on-Humber).

Had informed them in a previous letter‡ how that one Adam, a bailiff of their town, had failed to carry out an agreement to bring to the water's edge a certain number of quarters of corn purchased of him by William Hesille, citizen of London, five quarters of the same being still owing; desiring them at the same time to see satisfaction done for breach of contract. Express surprise that nothing had been done by them in the matter, and again desire them to compel the said Adam to deliver the said five quarters of corn, and to compensate the said William for any loss sustained by him, that there might be no occasion to write a third time, nor for annoying their folk repairing to London. The Lord, &c.

London, 12th September, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of

* Erected by Peter, the chaplain of Colechurch, who planned the rebuilding of the bridge in 1163, and was buried in the crypt of the chapel. It was afterwards used as a warehouse, and eventually pulled down in 1760. An inventory of articles in the chapel delivered to the wardens in the year 1350 by the outgoing wardens is to be found in the City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 196, printed in Riley's 'Memorials of London,' p. 263.

† St. Mary, Aldermary.

‡ Perhaps No. 150, *infra.*

*Oxford* for the recovery of Stephen, son of Roger Woderove, of "Wyderyngsete" (Withernsea ?), in the county of Norfolk, apprentice to Peter de Pary, girdler. *Latin.*

**144.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to their well-beloved liege lord Edward [III.], King of England, &c.

Sending him five hundred archers, horse and foot, with Thomas Rose, captain, and his five companions, to assist him in his war,* their wages having been paid for a term of forty days, commencing the 3rd day of October. God Almighty give him grace to reign long and to have victory over his enemies.

London, 3rd October, *s.a.* *French.*

**145.** [The same to * * * * *]

Heartily thanking him for honours and bounties already conferred upon them, and as they hope still to be continued. Might it please his lordship to know that they had sent five hundred archers, horse and foot, with Thomas Rose, captain, and his five companions, to assist the King in his war, and desiring his lordship, in whom they had the greatest confidence, to favour the said archers that they might have a suitable post assigned to them near the King's person. God Almighty have him in his keeping, body and soul.

London, 3rd October, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of similar letters having been sent to the Earl of Northampton, the Earl of March, the Earl of Stafford, Sir John Gray, steward of the King's household, and to Sir Peter Daudelee. *Latin.*

* With France. A memorandum of twenty men-at-arms as well as five hundred archers having been sent at this time by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to assist the King in his war with France, with their wages paid for forty days, is also to be found in the City Records, Letter Book G, folio 36 *b*, "quorum nomina et totus processus inde factus plenius patet in rotulis in baga Thome Leggy existentibus dicto anno xxix$^{no}$, &c."

**146.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Cauntebrigge* (Cambridge).

Informing them that whereas Thomas Gray, burgess of "Cauntebrigge," was prosecuting one Robert Buchier, of "Badberham" (Babraham, co. Cambridge), for a tun of wine supposed to have been received by him from Thomas Blundel, of London, attorney of the said Thomas Gray, to carry to the house of the said Thomas Gray at "Cauntebrigge," which had perished through the negligence of the said Robert: it had been proved, on the evidence of the said Thomas Blundel and of one John Paket, who, with him, lets out carts for hire for carrying divers goods, that it was not a tun of wine which the said Robert had received from him, but only a pipe of wine, and that this had been safely delivered. Ask them to give credence to this testimony that the said Robert be not aggrieved nor impeached contrary to law and reason. The Lord, &c.

London, 26th September, *s.a.* *French.*

*Temp.* THOMAS LEGGY, MAYOR [A.D. 1354—5], *continued.*

**147.** Thomas Leggy, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Good Folk of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the City of *Wyncestre* (Winchester).

Certifying that Thomas de Thornecombe, of the county of Southampton, had granted to Philip Moundeville, merchant, citizen of London, an annual rent of 20*l.* sterling, issuing from all his lands and tenements in "Comptone," "Wyncestre soke," and "Crundale" in the aforesaid county, and "La Chaumbre," in the county of Surrey, as by his deed sealed with his seal had appeared, which deed they are asked to accept as good and genuine, and to testify the same to others for love's sake. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 11th December, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter. *Latin.*

**148.** Thomas Leggy, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Oxenford* (Oxford).

Desiring them to cause John Norhamtone, common clerk* of the Guildhall of the town of Oxford, Nicholas Trewelove, fishmonger and burgess of the same, and Walter Ferby, burgess of the same, to pay to John de Gonewardeby, "grosser"† and citizen of London, or to his attorney, the bearer of these letters, certain sums of money which they respectively owe to him, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**149.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Salesbury* (Salisbury).

Notifying that John Abraham, John Bartelot, and Walter Salmon, girdlers and citizens of London, had been chosen by the good folk of the craft‡ within the City of London to rule and survey the said craft, that it be well and properly preserved in all points, to the common profit of the people in all cities, towns, and boroughs throughout England, as in the charter§ of the lord the King more plainly is contained. Desire them, therefore, to assist the aforesaid persons in ruling the said craft in their town and in reforming abuses, as they themselves would wish their folk to be treated in matters touching their own interest. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 20th March, *s.a.* *French.*

* The Town Clerk of the City of London was formerly known by this designation.

† Wholesale dealer, chiefly in spices and drugs, whence the modern term "grocer."

‡ *Mester*, art, trade, or craft; Latin *mestera*, connected with *ministerium*, and not to be confounded with *mysterium* (μυστήριον), a "mystery."

§ Dated 10th March, 1 Edward III.

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Leycester*, on behalf of John Godmerede, "peyntour,"* for the recovery of Geoffrey Dorre, his apprentice, dated 9th April.

Also of a similar letter to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Oxford*, on behalf of Peter de Parys, girdler, for the recovery of Roger Woderove,† of the county of Norfolk, his apprentice, dated 26th December.

*Latin.*

**150.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bartone* (Barton-on-Humber).

On the same subject as No. 143, *supra*, and probably the letter therein referred to.

Dated the last day of August, *s.a.* *French.*

**151.** Letters patent of Thomas Leggy, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London.

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that John de Mydford, tailor, is a citizen of London, and desiring all persons to let him pass with his merchandise quit of all manner of custom, according to the franchise of the said City.

London, 13th April, 29 Edward III. (A.D. 1355). *French.*

A note of similar letters having been sent on behalf of William Worthingpol, dated 15th September, 29 (Edward III. A.D. 1355).

*Latin.*

**152.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the most noble and honoured Lord the Count of Flanders.

Desiring that it might please his lordship to charge his

* Painter-stainer.

† Stephen, son of Roger Woderove, in Letter No. 143, *supra*.

Receiver and other wise members of his council to assist John Salman to recover the value of certain bonds assigned to him in satisfaction of a debt due to him by John Malewayn, citizen of London, which the latter had himself received from John de Isendyk, of "Neuport" in Flanders, who had publicly acknowledged his debt to the said John Salman, and had since died. Should his lordship desire anything on his part, he is to let his pleasure be known.

London, 19th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**153.** The same to the noble and wise Receiver of Flanders, on the same subject.

Dated London, 19th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**154.** Letters patent of the same, under the Common Seal, on the same subject.

Dated London, 19th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**155.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Certifying that a "hakebot,"* Arnaud Stalyn master, which had been freighted with wine at "Dam," in Flanders, by Bernard Payn, burgess of "Burdeux," for the port of London, had duly arrived, and that the said Arnaud had been paid the freight stipulated upon. Pray, therefore, that the goods and chattels of the said Bernard, which had, it was understood, been seized by them at the suit of the said Arnaud, for payment of the same, may be given up, and anything which the said Arnaud may have got possession of be restored, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 2nd April, *s.a.* *French.*

* Letter No. 54, *supra*, note.

*Temp.* THOMAS LEGGY, MAYOR [A.D. 1354—5], *continued.*

**156.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Good Folk of the Town of *Lesclus* (Sluys), in Flanders.*

Had heard that one John atte More, a burgess of Bruges, had brought a vexatious suit against one William atte Castel, on the charge of having imported and sold in Flanders three "sarplers" of feathers, claimed by the said John as his property. They are informed that many trustworthy citizens of London had testified that the said William had bought the said feathers in the City of London, and that they were his own proper chattel; to which testimony they are asked to give credence, so that the said William be not by malice wrongfully impeached, nor be aggrieved contrary to law and reason. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 29th September, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter. *Latin.*

**157.** Letters of protection of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

In favour of Roger de Swafham and John de Welton, friars of the Mendicant Order of the Holy Cross,† who were about to travel abroad on business connected with their house established within the said City.

London, 22nd September, A.D. 1355. *Latin.*

* A marginal note states that this letter was sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty.

† Crouched (now Crutched) Friars: their house was in Hart Street, Aldgate. These letters were granted apparently notwithstanding the King's writ, dated 15th September, anno 29 Edward III. (A.D. 1355), and sent to the Sheriffs of London, that no vessel, great or small, nor any man, of whatsoever state or condition he be, should leave the port of London for foreign parts before the Feast of St. Michael next ensuing without the King's licence. This writ is recorded as having been proclaimed on Tuesday, the morrow of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September), in the same year, and as remaining in the possession of William de Tudenham, Sheriff. City Records, Letter Book G, fol. 37 *b*.

**158.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and the whole Commonalty of the City of London to the honoured and religious Abbot* of *Petresburgh* (Peterborough).

Certifying that Robert de Seint Johan, "pelter,"† late citizen of London, had devised by will to his daughters Cristine and Rose goods and chattels to the value of 100*l.* sterling or more for marriage portions, and had appointed Anable, his wife and executrix, and Robert de Lincoln her co-executor, to be guardians of the same respectively; that upon the decease of the said Robert, the said Anable had become guardian also of the said Rose as next friend; that the said Anable had subsequently married one Thomas de Stanford, who had taken possession of the said goods and chattels within the lordship of the Abbey. Had heard that, owing to the said Thomas having been prosecuted for the death of his wife, who had died suddenly, the aforesaid property had become escheated into the hands of the Abbot, and therefore especially pray him to charitably give up the same to the said Cristine and Rose, or their attorney, the bearer of these letters. Should he desire anything on his part, &c.

No date. *French.*

*Temp.* SIMON FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR [A.D. 1355—6].

**159.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bartone on Hombre* (Barton-on-Humber).

On the same subject as Nos. 143 and 150, *supra.* Express surprise that nothing had been done by them in the matter referred to in previous letters, and threaten to take "wythername"‡ of the goods and merchandise of their folk repairing to the City of London.

London, 21st December, *s.a.* *French.*

* Robert Ramsey, Abbot A.D. 1353—1361.

† A skinner or pelterer: so called from his dressing pelts or skins with the wool on.

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 46, *supra*, note *.

**160.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Sandewicz* (Sandwich).

William le Chapeleyn [of] Richard Whit, burgess of their town, was understood to be indebted to Simon de Lincoln, citizen of London, in the sum of 39*s.* 2*d.*, for which he had been arrested by them at the suit of the said Simon. Pray them to assist the said Simon in the recovery of his debt according to law and reason. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 30th December, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses, and a note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Lincoln* for the recovery of John, son of Margery, wife of William Leante, apprentice of Thomas de Honifeld, baker, dated 23rd February.

*Latin.*

**161.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Suthamtone* (Southampton).

Requesting them to restore to John de Hatfeld, who is certified to be a citizen of London, the goods which they had seized for payment of "murage,"* which they had illegally demanded of him, inasmuch as both he and all who are of the franchise of the said City are and ought to be quit† of murage and of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion.

London, 16th December, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of similar letters having been sent to the Bailiffs of *Thorkeseye* (Torksey, co. Lincoln), on behalf of Thomas de Brandon, dated 6th January; to the Bailiffs of *Colcestre* (Col-

* A toll taken of carts and horses coming laden through a town, for building and repairing the walls thereof.

† By charter 26 Edward I. *Vide* 'Liber Albus' (Master of the Rolls Series), p. 141, and Bohun's 'Privilegia Londini,' p. 11.

chester), on behalf of John Underwode, junior, dated 15th May; and to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Douvere* (Dover), on behalf of William de Raughtone, dated 22nd January.

*Latin.*

**162.** The same to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Commonalty of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Certifying that, whereas it was understood that they had declined to pay to Katherine, the wife of John de Cranburgh, citizen of London, the sum of money stipulated for pulling down all the houses belonging to the said John in "Welle-stret," in their town, for the purpose of enlarging the street, without the assent of her said husband being first obtained, the said John had publicly expressed his desire that the money should be paid to his wife, whose action in the matter he would uphold. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 9th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**163.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Seint Botulf* (Boston, co. Lincoln).

Certifying that on Saturday next before the Feast of St. Dunstan (19th May), in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Edward III. (A.D. 1356), a ship called "la Maline" of "Saltflethavene" (co. Lincoln), Robert Gonald master, laden with sixty quarters of corn, had arrived at Billingsgate, and been there discharged.

London, 21st May, *s.a.* *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter. *Latin.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same, certifying that a ship called "la Blithe de Newelond de Eyre," laden with eighty quarters of malt, John Warde "de Newelond

de Eyre" master, had arrived at Billingsgate on the 15th May, dated 24th May.

Also of a letter sent to the Bailiffs of Aymer de St. Edmund,* Lord of *Ildeslee* (Ilsley, co. Berks), concerning goods of Roger de Depham seized for toll, dated 25th May.

*Latin.*

**164.** Letter of attorney from Adam de Shadewell, goldsmith, to William le Clerk, citizen of Waterford, to recover Robert Perler, his apprentice, wheresoever he may be found in Ireland. Sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty of London, his own seal being to many unknown.

London, 26th May, 30 Edward III. (A.D. 1356). *Latin.*

**165.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Oxenford* (Oxford).

Desiring them to cause William atte Shute, burgess of their town, to pay to John de Stodeye, citizen of London, the sum of forty marks due for merchandise, as by his letter obligatory sealed with his seal verily appears, of which sum not a single penny had as yet been paid. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could. The Lord have them in his keeping.

9th July, *s.a.* *French.*

*Temp.* SIMON FRAUNCEYS, MAYOR, *anno* 30 [Edward III. A.D. 1355—6], *continued.*

**166.** [The same] to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the City of *Develyn* (Dublin), in Ireland.

Had heard from Ralph de Stanesfeld, citizen of London, of their intention to seize his merchandise in their country in

* Aymer de St. Amand, son of John de St. Amand, much engaged in the wars of King Edward III. both in Scotland and France.

retaliation for tonnage dues* which were paid by their merchants in London. They are to know that by writ of the King Edward III., sent by William Foil, citizen of Dublin, and enrolled in the Remembrances† of the City of London, which are of record, the merchants of their city had been allowed to pass and repass quit of "murage,"‡ "pavage,"§ "pontage,"‖ and "kayage"¶ only; but there was no record exempting them from tonnage, which formed part of the ferm due to the King from the said City of London. If, however, they could show any charter or deed discharging them from such payment, they should be treated according to law and reason; in the mean time they are desired not to molest the said Ralph.

London, 14th July, *s.a.* *French.*

**167.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Nouel chastel* (Newcastle) *on Tyne.*

Desiring them to restore to Henry de Burton, vintner, who is certified to be a citizen of London, the goods which they had seized for payment of custom, inasmuch as both he and all who are of the franchise of the said City are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion.

London, 9th November, *s.a.* *French.*

* A duty, first granted by Parliament to King Edward III., upon all wines imported, over and above "prisage" and "butlerage."

† City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 31 *b*, dated 1st May, 14 Edward III. (A.D. 1340).

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 161, *supra*, note *.

§ Money paid towards the paving of streets or highways.

‖ A toll taken from passengers towards the maintenance of bridges. It was accounted one of the three public charges (*Trinoda necessitas*) on the nation, from which no person was exempted. In this case it must refer to London Bridge more especially.

¶ Toll money paid for loading or unloading goods at a "key" (quay) or wharf.

*Temp.* HENRY PYCARD,* MAYOR, *anno* 31 [Edward III. A.D. 1356—7].

**168.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Certifying that whereas Giles Vanecloistre, of Flanders, had brought a vexatious suit against John de Gestele, "osteler"† of their town, and "oste" to William de Lecchesfeld, late servant of John Bret, citizen of London, for 3 livres 7 shillings "gross,"‡ for coverchiefs alleged to have been purchased by the said William of the said Giles four years since, it had been ascertained on trustworthy evidence that the said William had bought no coverchiefs nor other goods from the said Giles, nor was in any way indebted to him. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake, that the said John be not unreasonably aggrieved by cause aforesaid.

London, 17th January, *s.a.* *French.*

A note of letters having been sent to the same on behalf of Adam Brabasoun, fishmonger, suing for 400*l.* due on a bond from Giles atte Gardin, dated 5th February; to the Bailiffs, &c., of the Town of *Leitoft* (Lowestoft), certifying that Geoffrey Fisshere, of Greenwich, had arrived in London with a ship called "Seint Jonesbot," laden with 200 quarters of corn, dated 6th March; and to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Lenne* (Lynn), on behalf of John Rys de Beverlee, concerning 200

* A merchant vintner of Gascony. Entertained the King of France (taken prisoner at the battle of Poitiers and carried to England), together with the Kings of England, Scotland, Denmark, and Cyprus, with great magnificence at his house in the Vintry, near St. Martin's Church, and after dinner "kept his Hall for all Comers that were willing to play at Dice and Hazard." Strype's Stow's 'Survey Book,' i. p. 261.

† Hosteler or innkeeper.

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 60, *supra*, note.

quarters of corn on board a ship called "Hardebolle," to be discharged at Calais, dated 6th March.

*Latin.*

**169.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Seint Auban* (St. Albans).

Desiring that they release as soon as possible one John Else, who at their suit had been imprisoned in the gaol of the Abbot of "Saint Auban," contrary to all the franchises of England, notwithstanding their claim to be exempt from the force of any writ of attaint, by charter of the King's progenitors alleged to have been granted to their town: inasmuch as it had been found that the said John had his action against them for illegal imprisonment, to their great damage and "vilenye." Let them perform this request, lest greater damage or "vilenye" come upon them by reason aforesaid, and certify by bearer of these letters their pleasure for love's sake.

London, 3rd May, *s.a.* *French.*

**170.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Desiring them to deliver to John Vannamen, burgess of their town, or his attorney the bearer, the value of twenty-four pieces of tin lately seized by them, belonging to Nicholas Thomasyn, citizen of London, as the said Nicholas had acknowledged that he was indebted to the said John for divers merchandise lately bought. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 5th June, *s.a.* *French.*

**171.** The same to the Captain, Treasurer, and Bailiffs of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Desiring them to compel "Huwe" de Hulle, who is living in their town, to pay Thomas atte Barnet, mason, the sum of 35*l.* 10*s.* for disbursements made on his behalf

to the executors of "Maute," late wife of Austyn Waleys, and to one Ralph de Mordone; and also the further sum of 3*l.* 0*s.* 17*d.* in which the said "Huwe" stands bound to him, as by a bond sealed with his seal truly appears.

London, 24th July, 31 (Edward III. A.D. 1357). *French.*

**172.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Norwych.*

Certifying that whereas John de Hales, late citizen of Norwich, had been bound by a statute merchant to John de Caustone the elder, late citizen of London, in 100 marks, whereof the executors of the said John de Hales had paid 20 marks, and for the remaining 80 marks the executors of the said John de Caustone had made an extent on the lands and tenements belonging to the said John de Hales in the county of Norfolk, which they had leased and granted to Edmund Lentee, citizen of Norwich, to hold to him, his heirs and assigns, until the said 80 marks, according to the form of the extent aforesaid, should be fully levied; and that whereas the executors of the said John de Hales allege that they had received an acquittance for 33 livres of that sum, it had been proved on trustworthy evidence that no such acquittance had ever been given by the executors of the said John de Caustone, nor had they received one penny of the 80 marks aforesaid. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake; and should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could.

London, 8th May, 32 Edward III. (A.D. 1358). *French.*

**173.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Wynchelse* (Winchelsea).

Desiring them to cause John Spicer, burgess of their town, to pay to Adam Stable, mercer and citizen of London, the sum of 30*l.* sterling, which he is found on good evidence

to owe for merchandise purchased. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 18th November, 33 Edward III. (A.D. 1359).
*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter. *Latin.*

**174.** The same to the same.

John Gyles, of "Axle,"* in Flanders, had complained that whereas he and one John Bridport, citizen of London, were joint owners of a ship called "Hardebolle" of "Axle," he himself being master, the said ship had been laden by the said John Bridport with "busch" for London; and a dispute having arisen at "la Rye" between him and Roger, the servant of the said John Bridport, he had left the ship and had proceeded by land to London. The said Roger had thereupon maliciously reported that the said John Gyles had there sold to him his share of the ship, on which sale the Mayor and Bailiffs of Winchelsea had claimed the said share as forfeit to the King, to the great loss of the said John Gyles and John Bridport. Certify that the said John Gyles had sold his share of the vessel at London on the 8th day of April last past, paying the custom due upon the said sale. Desire them to give credence to this testimony for love's sake and to cause satisfaction to be made to the said John Gyles and John Bridport for the trespass aforesaid. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready.

No date. *French.*

**175.** The same to the Burgomaster of the City of *Basil.*†

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that Gunrard called "Isenli," citizen of Basil, had arrived in the City of

* Axel.

† Basle, a town on the Rhine.

London on Monday next after the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul (29th June), A.D. 1358, and had there continued to live in honest company up to the 8th day of November following. Wish him farewell in the name of Him by whom kings reign and princes have dominion.

London, 8th October, the year aforesaid. *Latin.*

A note of letters having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Sandwich* for the goods of Henry de Rokeby there seized for custom, dated 16th February; and to Sir John de Goldyngham, Knt., residing at "Wyltyngge," in Sussex, for the recovery of John, son of William Sadelere, apprentice of John Doxenforde, "upheldere,"* dated 16th January.

*Latin.*

**176.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Dertemouth* (Dartmouth).

Praying their favour towards John Pokard, the bearer, who had been proved to be the attorney of Peter Scotelare, burgess of the town of Bruges, in Flanders, inasmuch as the said Peter had always assisted English folk negotiating business in Bruges or elsewhere in Flanders. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 20th July, 33 Edward (III. A.D. 1359). *French.*

**177.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Sandwytz* (Sandwich).

Desiring them to detain a ship laden with merchandise belonging to Adam de Faveresham, who had died indebted to John de Hatfeld, citizen of London, in the sum of 13*l.* sterling, for goods lately purchased in the said City, until satisfaction be done to the said John; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 16th August, 32 Edward III. (A.D. 1358).

*French.*

* Upholsterer.

**178.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London.

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that it had been proved that John Rackele had taken his corporal oath upon the Holy Gospels, in the month of May in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Edward III. (A.D. 1356), in the house of John Barbour in "la Tourstrete," that he would serve Robert Bury, Rector of the church of "Burghershe" (Burwash), in the diocese of Chichester, as the proctor and bailiff of the said church for one whole year.

Dated 27th .....* *Latin.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Cambridge* in respect of goods of Robert Russe, Robert Rose, and Robert Werde there seized.

*Latin.*

**179.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Redyng* (Reading).

Certifying that two horses, one grey, aged three years, and the other black, aged four years, which had been seized in the possession of John Fyrkyn, on suspicion that they had been stolen, had been let for hire to him by John Stoke, "hakeney-man" and citizen of London, and praying that they may be given up to the said John Stoke or his attorney, the bearer, for love's sake, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

No date. *French.*

**180.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Desiring them to cause their fellow burgess Giles atte Gardin to pay to Adam Brabison, fishmonger and citizen of London, the sum of 400*l.* sterling, which he owes. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would

* Month and year omitted in the manuscript.

be found ready to do what they could. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 5th February, *s.a.* *French.*

**181.** The same to the Mayor and Echevins of the Town of *Brussels.*

Testifying that John de Stenf—t (?), who was reported to have died, was alive and well. Ask them to give credence to this testimony for love's sake. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could. The Holy Spirit ever keep them.

London, ... November, A.D. 1357. *French.*

A note of letters having been sent to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Thetforde* (co. Norfolk), for the goods of John Thomas, seized for custom; and to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Dunstapele* (Dunstable), for the goods of Thomas Martin. *Latin.*

**182.** The same to the Bailiffs of the City of *Canterburs* (Canterbury).

Desiring them to cause John Seint Albon, "pynnere,"* residing in their city, to pay to Walter Wyrdrawere, citizen of London, the sum of 41*s.* sterling, which he owes for divers merchandise.

19th July, 32 (Edward III. A.D. 1358). *French.*

**183.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Melnyng in Sprucia* (Prussia).

Certifying that the ship called the "Cristofre de Lubyk" (Lubeck), a certain "Claus" Helmast, of "Lubyk," being master, which Henry Penshurste, the agent of John Salman and of Fulk de Horwode, citizens of London, had freighted with merchandise for London, and for the delivery of which Tydeman Wagendorp, burgess of their town, had become

* Pinmaker.

bail, had duly arrived in London on Tuesday next before the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist (24th June), A.D. 1358, and her cargo had been there discharged. Desire them to give credence to this notification, and to release the said Tydeman from his bail. God, who maintains and governs all things, preserve them.

London, 28th June, the year aforesaid. *Latin.*

**184.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Wynchelse* (Winchelsea).

Whereas John Rose, master of a ship of "Lesclus" (Sluys), had lately set sail thither with his ship, laden with "bilet,"* but had been obliged to return owing to some suspicious persons whom he mistrusted, they are desired to assist him to prosecute his voyage without incurring loss and annoyance. Should they desire anything, &c.

London, 2nd July, 32 (Edward III. A.D. 1358). *French.*

**185.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of Great *Jernemouth* (Yarmouth).

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that it had been proved on oath that when the ship called "la Goode Tyme" from "Jernemouth," William Wayneflet master, arrived in the port of London on the 1st day of July last past, with divers merchandise, it fell out that on the evening of the 3rd day of the same month, when the master and his companions were asleep on board, John de Roughton, a seaman, went overboard into the Thames alone for a bath, and was drowned, departing this life for eternal light, please God; to which testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake. The Lord, &c.

London, the 6th day of the same month. *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above. *Latin.*

* Timber.

**186.** Letters patent of John Lovekyn, the Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Desiring all persons to cause Thomas Lyndelowe, merchant of "Beverle" (co. York), John Bole, Dean* of the Curriers of Bruges, in Flanders, and Gyselyn Grymlond, his attorney, wheresoever they may be found, to satisfy Ralph de Cauntebrigge, "phelipier,"† citizen of London, of a debt of 96*l.* sterling in which sum the said Thomas and Gyselyn stood jointly and severally bound to him, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier.

2nd September, 33 Edward III. (1359). *French.*

**187.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Oxenforde* (Oxford).

Desiring them for love's sake to restore the goods and chattels, to wit, a horse, half a sack of wool, and four nobles, which they had taken from William Ware, suspecting him to be a disloyal person, inasmuch as he had proved to be an apprentice of John Englisshe, citizen of London, to whom the said goods and chattels belong; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord, &c.

London, 3rd October, 32 Edward III. (A.D. 1358). *French.*

**188.** [The same] to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Desiring them for love's sake to assist Peter Scutelare, John Dexemeuth, and others, attorneys of Jacob Vander-

* An officer of this name was not uncommon in English guilds, holding a similar position to that of beadle; *vide* introduction by Miss Toulmin Smith to 'Ordinances of English Gilds,' edited by her father (Early English Text Society), p. xxxviii. On the other hand, it was the *President* of the Guild of Kalendars who was often so designated; *vide* introductory essay to the above by Dr. Lujo Brentano, p. xc.

† Or fripperer. *Vide* Letter No. 72, *supra*, note ‡.

hallen, son of Peter Vanderhallen, to obtain seisin of the lands, tenements, rents, &c., which had descended to him on the decease of his said father, in their town of Bruges as well as in the seignory of "Strate" hard by, as is more fully contained in a letter sealed with the seals of the Mayoralty of the City of London and of the said Jacob; in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case or weightier.

No date. *French.*

**189.** Letter of the above Jacob Vanderhallen, appointing the persons named in the last letter to be his attorneys for obtaining seisin of the said possessions.

Date illegible. *Latin.*

**190.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of (*Thorne?*) in *Sprucia* (Prussia).

Certifying that a ship called "(Godos) Knygth," Nicholas Stottesburgh master, bound for the port of London, and for the safe arrival of which John de Hatfeld, of Thorne, had given security, had duly arrived and her cargo had been there discharged.

London (date illegible). *Latin.*

**191.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Certifying that Agatha, the widow of Geffrey de "Wantynche" (Wantage), late burgess of their town, had satisfied Peter Broun and John Broun, of "Wantynche," brothers and heirs of the deceased, of their reasonable* part of the goods

* The power of disposing of property after death in the earliest times was permitted in some countries and denied in others. In England it is coeval with the first rudiments of law, but it did not extend originally to *all* a man's personal estate. By the common law a man's goods were to be divided into three equal parts, of which one went to his heirs or lineal descendants, another to his wife, and the third was at his own disposal. The shares of the wife and children were

and chattels of the same, for which they had given her a release. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake.

London, 28th June (*circa* A.D. 1357). *French.*

**192.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Peveneseye* (co. Sussex).

Desiring them for love's sake to give up the goods and chattels of William Rolf, "shipman," lately drowned at sea, to Alice, the bearer of these letters, who is certified to have been his wife; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 20th September, 33 Edward III. (A.D. 1359). *French.*

**193.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Wynchelse* (Winchelsea).

Acknowledging the receipt of their letters wherein they had desired that Adam de Shipstede, citizen of London, should be made to pay John Fynch, Henry Fynch, and Simon Salerne, burgesses of their town, the sum of 60*l.* sterling wrongfully detained by him, and also the sum of 30*l.* which he owed Robert Baddyng, burgess of the same, for wine; and certifying that the said Robert had made no demand against the said Adam; that, moreover, the said Adam had nothing within the City of London whereon to distrain, as they would learn more fully from the said Henry Fynch by word of mouth; and, further, that 23*l.* out of the above sum of 60*l.* had been already paid by the said Adam. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake.

London, 4th July, 33 (Edward III. A.D. 1359). *French.*

called their *reasonable* parts. This ancient method continued in the City of London till abolished by Act of Parliament, 11 Geo. I. c. 18. Kerr's 'Blackstone's Comment.,' vol. ii. pp. 443–4.

**194.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Testifying that John de Colkyrke, late burgess of Bruges, and Elizabeth his wife had confirmed by deed to John Cornbitere, burgess of the same, a portion of certain houses situate near the gate of "la Heghestret" in their town, formerly belonging to his father; to which testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 13th July, A.D. 1357. *French.*

**195.** The same to the Echevins and Council of the Town of *Berflete*, in Flanders.

Desiring them to cause Richard de Berflete to pay William Cook of Berkhampsted (?), citizen of London, the sum of 66*l.* 18*s.* sterling in which he was jointly and severally bound with Thomas Eklow, residing in their town in (*sic*) "Eklow" (Ecloo); in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 19th July, A.D. 1357. *French.*

**196.** The same to the much honoured Father in God (William de Edindon) Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of the Lord the King.*

Certifying that on Sunday next after the Feast of St. Valentine (14th February) last past, John Lokhom, of the town of "Mieth" (Meath) in Ireland, residing in the town of "Lymeryk," had come to Billingsgate in London, and,

* The same who is addressed in Letter No. 11, *supra*, as the King's Treasurer, and who is mentioned by early chroniclers as having then conceived and executed the idea of coining groats and half-groats less in weight than their equivalent sum sterling. This occasioned a great rise in the price of provisions throughout England, and led to much cheating and disaffection among the working class, to counteract which statutes as to the wages of labourers were passed in the 28th and 35th years of Edward III., but, adds Walsingham, with little or no profit to the common people. *Vide* Walsingham's 'Hist. Angl.,' pp. 275-6; Stow's 'Annales,' ed. 1592, p. 387.

entering the house of Richard atte More, had robbed him of goods and chattels in gold and silver to the value of 140*l.*; to which testimony he is asked to give credence. The Holy Spirit have him in his keeping.

London, 5th June, 31 Edward III. (A.D. 1357). *French.*

**197.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges.*

Desiring them for love's sake to request the lord of Lyghterfeld, their fellow burgess, to cause his tenant, John Mighelsone, to satisfy Roger de Glendon, citizen of London, of his debt of 120 crowns Flemish. The Lord, &c.

London, 20th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**198.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Oxenforde* (Oxford).

Acknowledging the receipt of their letters asking for information respecting certain customs of the City of London, and certifying that at every Husting of Pleas of Land held in the said City each alderman of the twenty-four wards, by his beadle, returns a panel of twelve good men to attend the same. And if it happen that parties plead by writ of right at the inquest of twenty-three* in place† of the great assize of the lord the King, at least twelve shall be of the ward in which the tenements whereof inquest is to be had are situate, and the remainder shall be of the three nearest wards. And if they come not on the first day, they are fined at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen, and the fines are levied as part of the City's estate by the Sheriffs, who are then ordered to distrain the parties against the next Husting, to which if they come not by distress, heavier fines are imposed and levied in like manner; and each time they make default they are fined and the fines levied as before,

* Mistake for twenty-four.

† "*En lieu.*" In 'Liber Albus' (Master of the Rolls Series), vol. i. p. 183, it is "*en nature.*"

unless they be put in issue. And if any by summons or distress come into court and be there seen, and thence depart without leave before a jury be made or he be called, and refuse to answer or appear, he is then punished at the discretion of the Mayor.

No date. *French.*

**199.** [The same to the brothers of Geoffray de Wantynche,* late burgess of Bruges.]

Informing them that Agatha, the widow of Geffray, their brother, lately residing in the town of Bruges, had come to London to deliver to them their share of the goods which her late husband possessed at the time of his decease, and naming a day for them to appear in London, either in person or by their attorney, otherwise the property would be dealt with according to Flemish law.

London, 23rd June, 31 Edward III. (A.D. 1357). *French.*

**200.** A public notification by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to all persons, as well beyond the sea as on this side, that whereas Henry Welwes and John Penne, drapers of the said City, were bound to Thomas de Notyngham, citizen of London, in 50*l.* sterling, and were indebted to divers other folk of the said City, the same had fled and had eloined their goods and merchandise out of the said City. Call upon all persons to seize both them and their goods wheresoever they might be found, and to safeguard them in order that the said Thomas might recover his debt; and to send information as to the time of their arrest, and of the value of the goods and merchandise so seized, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier.

13th May, *s.a.* *French.*

* *Vide* Letter No. 191, *supra.*

**201.** The same to the Governor, Bailiffs, and other Officers of the Counte de Hanaud* (Hainault).

Testifying that it had been proved that when James de Burbon, Count de la Marche and Pontyf,† lately purposed to cross the sea to France, Gilbert Beauchamp, fishmonger, and Roland Pulter, citizens of London, at the instance of John de Camelyn, of "Compygne,"‡ at that time the Count's servant, went to him and declared that he owed them 1,500 "*motons dor*,"§ which was corroborated by the said John de Camelyn, whereupon the Count, believing their statement, promised to pay them immediately on his return to England; and, further, that one Bartholomew Guidons,‖ a changer in the City of London, had stated that the same John de Camelyn had deposited with him a hanap of silver weighing 12 marks, together with 48 golden crowns, to keep until the return of the said John to England. On the Count's return the aforesaid Gilbert and Roland had come to him and declared that he was in no wise indebted to them; likewise the said Bartholomew had also come and restored to him the hanap and the 48 crowns before mentioned, without any charge, declaring that he had lent nothing thereon to the said John de Camelyn. Desire them to give credence to this testimony, for the truth

* Qy. William the Mad, Count of Holland, Zealand, West Friesland, and Hainault, called also Duke of Bavaria, who married Maud, the daughter of the first Duke of Lancaster. *Vide* Letter No. 58, *supra*, note.

† Ponthieu. This county and the dignity of Constable were conferred upon him by King John of France, to whom he was always faithful. He was famous in three battles: first, in that of Crecy, where he was wounded; next, in that of Poitiers, when he was taken prisoner; and lastly at Brignais, near Lyons, where he was utterly routed by a "company" of freebooters who were ravaging the country, and he and his son Peter mortally wounded. This battle took place on the 6th April, 1362. *Vide* note in Buchon's edition of Froissart, vol. i. p. 457.

‡ Compiegne.

§ "Golden sheep": gold coins so called from their having an impression of John the Baptist on the one side, and of a lamb (*Agnus Dei*) on the other.

‖ To Bartholomew Guidonis de Castilon, merchant of London, and Adam de Saint Ive of London, draper, was granted the monopoly of all exchanges of money and of gold and silver plate throughout the kingdom, to hold for one whole year from the Feast of St. Michael, anno 33 Edward III. City Records, Letter Book G, fol. 79 *b*.

of which the aforesaid Gilbert and Roland and the said Bartholomew had pledged their word. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 7th August, *s.a.* *French.*

**202.** Letters of John Lovekyn, Mayor, the Aldermen and Sheriffs of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Publicly certifying that whereas some time ago, to wit, in the thirty-third* year of the reign of King Edward III., a certain Richard Maury, Abbot of the Monastery of "Medelton,"† in the county of Dorset, when on his way to the Court of Rome, had come to the City of London, and for a certain sum of money to be received in Rome had exchanged 15*l.* sterling with merchants of "Malebaile,"‡ whereof the said merchants had declined to accept certain pieces, having divers marks and figures thereon, to the value of 29*s.* 6*d.*: it so happened that a servant of the aforesaid abbot, named Simon Ralee, on Friday next after the Feast of St. Michael in the year aforesaid, was buying a horse in the market of "Westsmethefeld," in the suburb of London, for 24*s.* 6*d.*, which sum the vendor received and with which he went away content. But on the Saturday following one George Tyngewyk lodged a public complaint in the King's Court held before the then Mayor and Sheriffs of the said City against the said abbot, charging him with being in possession of a quantity of base

* A mistake for the twenty-third year, when the abbot would probably be on his way to Rome for the purpose of keeping the year of Jubilee, A.D. 1350. *Vide* Letter No. 52, *supra*, note †.

† Middleton or Milton Abbots.

‡ Probably Florentine merchants, who excelled all others in the *Arte del Cambio.* Cf. Letter No. 15, *supra*, where Antoin Mayllebayl is represented as acting as money agent abroad for Andrew Aubrey, a citizen of London. The name *Malepilys* or *Malpiles*, which seems akin to, if not identical with it, occurs twice in Rymer's 'Fœdera': (1) where Bartholomew de Malepilys is deputed by the King, in conjunction with Thomas de Brantyngham, the King's receiver at Calais, and Antoin de Vale, to receive a portion of the Duke of Burgundy's ransom; (2) where Burdet de Malpiles, of Florence, is appointed master of the mint at Calais. *Vide* 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part ii. pp. 612, 915.

coin, with which he had paid to the said George a large sum for the horse aforesaid, and thereupon urgently prayed a remedy as well for himself as for the lord the King, especially since money of this kind was, as he believed, manufactured by the abbot himself, or had been brought by him into England from distant parts, as was very probable. Accordingly, at the instance of the said George, the then Mayor and Sheriffs aforesaid had caused the abbot himself to be arrested on suspicion and to answer before them concerning the said money. But when the plaint would have been heard in the Court of the lord the King, before the then Mayor and Sheriffs and their officers, as well as many nobles of the King's Council and of the City aforesaid, the lord the King had commanded the then Mayor and Sheriffs to cause the said abbot to appear before the King himself and his Council, together with the cause of his arrest, which accordingly had been done.

5th September, 33 Edward III. (A.D. 1359). *Latin.*

**203.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs of *Noef chastel* (Newcastle) *on Tyne.*

Informing them that John Lovekyn, citizen of London, purposed by the grace of God to freight a ship called "la Weselere" of "Dordright,"* one Dederyk, of "Dordright," being master, with seacoal and other merchandise in their parts, to carry to the City of London, and desiring them to allow the same to pass free of custom, inasmuch as both he and all who are of the franchise of the said City are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could.

London, 7th February, 33 Edward III. (A.D. $135\frac{8}{9}$). *French.*

* Dordrecht in Holland.

**204.** John Lovekyn, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London to Robert Arnald, of *Wynchelse* (Winchelsea).

Authorizing him to deliver their "Flume" with all its "apparaille" to Raynald Ferers, for the King's service.* He is not to fail in this for love's sake, and for so doing this should be his warrant.

London, 17th August, 33 Edward III. (A.D. 1359). *French.*

**205.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Est Jernemouthe* (East Yarmouth).

Certifying that Thomas Wryghte had arrived on a certain day at the port of Billingsgate in a ship called "..... Johan de Est Jernemouthe," one Dykman Snow being master, and had there discharged sixty quarters of corn. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake.

London, 4th June, 32 Edward III. (1358). *French.*

**206.** The same to the Mayor and "Barouns" of [*Sand*]*wych.*

Acknowledging receipt of letters, &c.

Illegible. *French.*

*Temp.* JOHN NOT, MAYOR, *anno* 38 Edward III. [A.D. 1363—4].

**207.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Monsieur Baudreyn de la Heuse, Admiral of France, or his Lieutenant, the Mayors and Echevins, Captains, Bailiffs, Sheriffs of the Towns of *Roen* (Rouen), *Harefleu* (Harfleur), *Caan* (Caen),

* The truce which had been made between the Kings of England and France on the 23rd March, A.D. 135§, would have expired in the ordinary course at Easter this year, but it had been prolonged (through negotiations carried out by Sir Walter de Mannay) till the 25th June following, in order to give an opportunity for its conversion into a permanent treaty of peace. The conditions, however, on which the war should cease, and which had been agreed to by King Edward and King John, having been rejected by the Duke of Normandy, preparations to renew the war, which had been already commenced by Edward pending negotiations, were now actively resumed. *Vide* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. pp. 348, 412, 414, 415, 417, 426, 442; City Records, Letter Book G, fols. 60, 65, 75, 79 *b*; Longman's 'Life and Times of Edward III.,' vol. ii. pp. 42-3.

*Bayeusse* (Bayeux), and to all other Justices of the good Towns of France in parts of Normandy.

Informing them that Nicholas Peutrer, Ralph Trenewych, Walter Hereville, John Syward, and William Kenteys, citizens and inhabitants of London, had complained that on the 17th day of May last past one of their ships, laden with 360 pieces of white tin from Cornwall, bound for London, had been captured and robbed off "le Raas de Portelond"* by seamen from Normandy, called "billecokes claybakes,"† and others, been carried to the castle of "Masys en Constantyn,"‡ to "Harefleu," and elsewhere, and had been sold and the proceeds divided. [The marks on the tin of the respective owners are here described for their information.] They are desired to use their best endeavours to recover the said ship and its cargo, and to compensate the owners for their loss, that there might be no necessity to lay the matter before the King and his Council and obtain a remedy by other means.

London, 26th July, 38 (Edward III.) A.D. 1364. *French.*

**208.** [The same] to the Bailiffs of Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick and Lord of Gower in Wales.

Complaining of their having seized wool and other merchandise belonging to Nicholas Ploket, citizen of London, at "*Sweneneseye*" (Swansea) in the seignory of Gower, for payment of custom, and desiring them to restore the distress they had so taken, and in future to cease demanding custom from him, as being contrary to the franchise of the said City, that there might be no necessity to seek a remedy by other means. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 26th July, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

* Race of Portland.

† *Vide* Letter No. 72, *supra*, note *.

‡ *Coutances*, duchy of Normandy.

**209.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Flewell*...( ).

Testifying under the seal of the Mayoralty to the good character of a poor pilgrim, "Robert of ye Wente de Horam," and desiring them to restore to him the double cloak, three pairs of gloves, three "hanapes," and three "foeseles," to the value altogether of 8*s.*, which they had taken from him, on suspicion of his loyalty.

London, 23rd July, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

**210.** Letters patent of the same, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Testifying to the good character of John Hunger van Ouen, who had for many years practised as a goldsmith in the City of London.

London, 8th July, 38 Edward III. A.D. 1364. *Latin.*

**211.** The Mayor and the whole Commonalty of the City of London to the Most Holy Father in Christ, Pope U[rban V.].

Humbly beseeching his Holiness not to remove S[imon de Sudbury*], Bishop of London, where he is much beloved, to the see of Worcester, which was a less honourable position, although a little more valuable.

London, 3rd January, *s.a.* *Latin.*

**212.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Neweport*, in Flanders.

John Lovekyn, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he and his agents at Great "Jernemouth" had on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Katherine (25th November) last past freighted a "creyere,"† John Howe master, with nine and a half lasts of red herring, of the value of 8*l.*

* He remained Bishop of London till 1375, when he was advanced to the Primacy. Dragged from the Tower by the Kentish rebels in 1381 and murdered. City Records, Letter Book H, fol. 133.

† *Vide* Letter No. 100, *supra*, note *.

sterling the last, bound for the City of London, there had come, in a time of peace, one Clays Cleward,* sailing in a ship of "Neweport," who by force and arms had deprived the said John Howe of the said "creyere" and cargo when off the port of "Orewelle," and had carried them whithersoever he would, to the great loss of the said Lovekyn. Pray a remedy. No date. *French.*

**213.** [The same to * * * * *]

Certifying that whereas Henry Ilyngham, a merchant of the Hanse of Almaine,† had lately shipped two barrels of "Greywerk"‡ at Bruges, on board a ship whereof Lawrence Persissone was master, and the said ship had perished, and of the two barrels of "Greywerk" one had been found in his seignory and detained as "Wrak," in the belief that all on board had perished; evidence had been brought to show that the said barrels of "Greywerk" were the property of the said Henry Ilyngham, and that none on board that ship had perished. He is asked to believe this testimony, and to restore to the said Henry or his attorney the barrel aforesaid. The Holy Spirit have him ever in his keeping.

London, 26th January, 37 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{2}{3}$). *French.*

**214.** [The same] to Ferando Roderici, Judge on behalf of the illustrious Lord Prince and King of Portugal and Algarve, in the City of *Lisbon.*

Certifying on the evidence of trustworthy citizens of London, present on the 2nd day of July, A.D. 1364, that whereas Gomez Janys, of Lisbon, on leaving England, had deposited with Dominico Ferandi, merchant of London, four casks of wine, with instructions to sell it if he had an opportunity, otherwise to give it to the poor or pour it away into

* This name appears again in Letter No. 280, *infra.*

† *Vide* Letter No. 74, *supra,* note †.

‡ Fur of badger skin, largely imported from Flanders and Germany in those days.

the street; the said Dominico, failing to find a purchaser for it as it had become bad, had distributed a portion thereof to the poor, and had thrown the rest, which nobody required, into the street in the manner prescribed by the said Gomez. The empty casks had been seized by the owner of the cellar for rent, so that nothing remained in the hands of the said Dominico. Further certify that the custom* of the City of London was that when wine became unwholesome it was thrown away into the street. To this testimony he is asked to give credence, in such manner as he would wish his letters to be respected in like case or weightier. Wish him farewell in the name of Him by whom kings reign and princes have dominion.

London, the day and year aforesaid. *Latin.*

**215.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Prefect, Sheriffs, Echevins, Bailiffs, &c., of the City of *Utright* (Utrecht).

Certifying that Simon de Ware, citizen of London, had married Katherine, daughter of Albrecht d'Almaine, late saddler of London, and of Agatha his wife, who afterwards married Diedrich "van the Melne," likewise a saddler; and that the said Simon and Katherine had come into court at the Guildhall and had produced a general release under their seals to Peter Dole, of "Utright," dated the 9th day of August, A.D. 1364. They are earnestly desired to accept this testimony, and to deliver to the said Simon and Katherine their reasonable† part or portion of the goods which the

* In 1377 Ralph Strode, the Common Sergeant, presented to the Common Council of the City that whereas the franchise and custom of the said City did not allow any victuals, putrid and unsound for human use, to be housed within the City, certain unwholesome wines were housed in the cellar of one William Anecroft, upon Botolph's Wharf. Whereupon examination was made of the same by certain vintners and merchants of Bordeaux, who declaring them to be corrupt, the same was adjudged by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs to be poured out in the street and thrown away, and wholly made away with, according to the custom of the City. City Records, Letter Book H, fol. 62.

† *Vide* Letter No. 191, *supra*, note.

aforesaid Diedrich, the husband of Agatha, possessed in their city, and which remain in the hands of the said Peter Dole, the brother of the aforesaid Katherine, according to the laudable custom of the city of "Utright," that they be not further troubled in seeking a remedy. The Most Highest Son of the glorious Virgin preserve them in happy prosperity.

No date. *Latin.*

**216.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Rye.*

Desiring them to cause Robert Blak, mariner, residing in their town, to satisfy the balance of a debt due to Thomas Northerne, citizen of London, for wine entrusted to him for sale. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 16th August, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

**217.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Dancastre* (Doncaster).

Desiring them to assist John Dilwich, "sporyere,"* to recover his apprentice, William de Stantlee, of the county of Warwick, who had left the service of the said John and of Isabel his wife, and was understood to be residing in their town; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 28th June, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

**218.** The same to the Echevins, Burgomasters, Judges and Justiciaries, and the whole Commonalty of the Town of *Melewyk* ( ).

Desiring them to cause John Gerardessone, of "Melewyk," to pay to Robert de Rameseye, citizen of London and fishmonger, the sum of 31*l.* sterling due for merchandise, with damages for delay, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. Wish them fare-

* Spur-maker.

well in the name of Him by whom kings reign and princes have dominion.

London, 22nd May, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *Latin.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same, dated 20th September, 38 (Edward III.).

*Latin.*

**219.** The same to John de Banntone, Steward to the Earl of Stafford, and to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Shenle* (Shenley, co. Herts?).

Desiring them to assist John Coventre, "chesemongere," to recover his runaway apprentice, Simon, son of John Grene, of Stanford Ryvers, who was understood to be residing in their town, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 13th April, *s.a.* *French.*

**220.** [The same to * * * * *]

Desiring him to assist John de Derthyngton and Cristiana his wife to recover their runaway apprentice, Richard, son of John Fode de Barneby. Should he desire anything on his part, he would find them ready to execute his wishes so far as they could. The Lord have him in his keeping.

London, 27th April, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

**221.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Boreford* (Burford, co. Oxon).

Desiring them to restore the distress they had taken from the merchandise of William atte Hale, citizen of London, for stallage,* and to cease to demand such toll in future, inasmuch as all citizens of London are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion by charter.

London, 14th June, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

* Money paid for the right of erecting stalls in fairs and markets.

222. The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Neof Chastel* (Newcastle) *on Tyne.*

Requesting them similarly to restore the distress they had taken from the merchandise of William Worin, of "Groveham," citizen of London, for custom which their bailiffs had demanded, and to cease in future to levy such distress on citizens of London.

London, 11th June, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

223. [The same to * * * * *]

Desiring them to assist John Reg, "curreour," to recover Nicholas, son of Peter Skynner, of "Grenewiche," his runaway apprentice. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to execute their wishes so far as they could.

London, 22nd May, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

224. The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bartone on Humbre* (Barton-on-Humber).

Reminding them of former letters desiring them to restore to John de Pountfreit, Robert Gerdelere, Ralph de Morton, John Bret, and many other citizens of London, divers distresses which had been taken for custom demanded for merchandise passing through the town, wherein nothing had as yet been done and the distresses were still retained. And inasmuch as the aforesaid citizens and all who are of the franchise of the said City are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion, as well beyond the sea as on this side, and in the isles of the sea as in England, they are especially requested for love's sake to restore the distresses so taken, that there might be no occasion to write a third time on the same matter. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 20th February, 34 Edward III. (A.D. $13\frac{59}{60}$). *French.*

A note of another letter* having been sent in the nature of an *alias*,† and of two more letters in the nature of *pluries*,‡ but that nothing had been effected. Whereupon withernam§ had been granted in the Hustings of London held on Monday, the Feast of the Apostles SS. Philip and James (1st May), 37 (Edward III. A.D. 1363), and a precept issued to John de St. Albans, Sheriff, to carry it out.

**225.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Strode* (Strood, co. Kent).

Desiring them to assist Robert Godeselde, citizen and "purser"‖ of London, to recover Adam Tayllour, of "Bexelee," of the parish of "Maydestone," in the county of Kent, his runaway apprentice, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 17th August, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

**226.** The same to the Prefect, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, &c., of the City of *Utright* (Utrecht).

On the same subject as Letter No. 215, *supra*. Desiring them to assist Simon de Ware, citizen of London, and Katherine his wife, to recover their reasonable part of the goods of Diedrich "van the Melne" and of Agatha his wife, now in the possession of Peter Dale (*sic*), brother of the said Katherine.

London, 6th April, A.D. 1362. *Latin.*

**227.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the City of *Wyncestre* (Winchester).

Certifying that whereas Roger Powe, mercer, and Richard

* Probably Letter No. 237, *infra*.

† A second or further writ issued after the original writ has had no effect.

‡ A third writ issued if the *alias* failed.

§ *Vide* Letter No. 46, *supra*, note *.

‖ Purse or pouch maker.

Burgh stood bound to William Wycheford, of Salisbury, in the sum of 134*l.* sterling, due for merchandise bought at Winchester fair, evidence had been produced to show that the said Richard had no share of the merchandise or profits arising therefrom. They are desired, therefore, to cause the said Roger to satisfy the debt, that the said Richard might obtain his discharge in such manner, &c.

London, 1st March, 38 (Edward III. A.D. 136$\frac{3}{4}$). *French.*

228. [The same to * * * * *]

Certifying that all assizes of *fresh force** and *mort d'ancestor*† in the City of London are pleaded before the Sheriffs and Coroners of the said City, and not before the Mayor and Aldermen, except in error, when the Recorder and parties to the suit appear by the King's writ before the Mayor and Aldermen in full Husting. And if any be disseised of his frank tenement, and wish to recover it by assize of fresh force, he must commence by bill within forty weeks,‡ otherwise he must recover by writ of right patent pleaded in the Husting. But in a case of re-disseisin made after recovery and by assize of fresh force, action must be taken by writ of re-disseisin out of the King's Chancellery before the Sheriffs of the City. And if nothing, &c.

No date. *French.*

229. Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that about the Feast of Pentecost A.D. 1360 one Walter de Bixtone sold to William Machenare, of

* Otherwise called Assize of Novel-disseisin.

† This writ lay where a man's near relation had died seised of lands, and after his death a stranger entered, to the prejudice of the claimant.

‡ According to some authorities, where a person was disseised of tenements he was to bring his assize or bill of fresh force within forty *days* after the "force" committed. *Vide* Lavieux, 'Natura Brevium,' p. 85 *sqq.*, and Jacob's 'Law Dictionary,' *s.v.* "Fresh force." On the other hand, the longer term of forty *weeks* is also named as the limit in the 'Liber Albus' (Master of the Rolls Series), p. 195.

Bruges, a barrel of "Wyldewerk"* for 27*l.* 17*s.*, and received in part payment thereof an "escheker"† and game pertaining to it, a cross of alabaster and silver, one "plates,"‡ and other arms of iron of the value of 12*l.* 10*s.* sterling, the said barrel being left in the custody of Richard atte Crouche, senior, host of the said Walter, as security for the payment of the balance by the Feast of St. Michael next ensuing. And forasmuch as the said William had never tendered payment of the same, the barrel had remained in the custody of the said Richard for more than a year after the said feast, when the said William shortly afterwards offered 20*s.* to the said Walter to avoid his bargain. It had eventually been sold for fear of its becoming bad, for a certain sum of money, which the said Walter was willing to hand over to the said William on receiving from him or his attorney the balance aforesaid.

London, 19th March, A.D. 1362. *French.*

**230.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Abbot and Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Colcestre* (Colchester).

Desiring them to restore to William Dykeman, Roger Streit, William Fromond, and Henry Loughton, citizens of London, the distress they had taken from their merchandise for "pykage"§ at Colchester fair; and to cease in future to take custom of citizens of London, inasmuch as they are and ought to be quit of "pykage" and of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion, by charter granted to them by the King's ancestors. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 8th June, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

* Wild-work: perhaps the fur of wild rabbits.

† Possibly a chess-board and men.

‡ Qy. breastplate.

§ A toll paid for picking up market ground for erecting a stall.

231. [The same to * * the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).]

Acknowledging the receipt of their letters touching a debt of 49*s.* alleged to be due to Henry de Taunton, burgess of "Caleys," by Philip le Skynnere, of London; and informing them that inasmuch as the contract had arisen in "Caleys," and the matter could not conveniently be heard before the writers, the parties had consented that it should be tried at "Caleys." They are, therefore, requested to inquire into it and to send particulars of the contract, in order that a correct judgment might be arrived at in the event of the parties returning to London. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to execute their wishes so far as they could. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 30th April, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

JOHN NOT, MAYOR, *anno* 38 [Edward III. A.D. 1363—4].

232. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Cestre* (Chester).

Desiring them to restore the distress they had taken for custom from the merchandise of John de Stodeye, vintner and citizen of London, whilst on its way from Flanders to their town in charge of Peter Maners, his servant, contrary to the liberties of the City of London; and to cease to demand such custom in future, inasmuch as citizens of London by charter are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion.

London, 4th June, 37 Edward III. (A.D. 1363). *French.*

A note of a second and a third letter having been sent to the same on the same subject, to which no reply had been received; the said John, therefore, had demanded a remedy according to the ancient custom* of the City of London, &c.

* By *withernam; vide* Letter No. 46, *supra.*

Also of another letter having been sent to the same on the same subject, for that they had seized the merchandise of the said John to the value of 20*l.* because Peter Mayners, his servant, had sold his master's goods by retail, which he was justified in doing by statute.* The aforesaid Mayor and bailiffs, however, had refused to surrender the distress, whereupon another letter having been sent, and no reply received, the said John had demanded a remedy according to the ancient custom of the City.

*Latin.*

**233.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Middelburgh in Seland.*

Desiring them to deliver to Alice, relict of Thomas de Stafford, late skinner of London, who had gone the way of all flesh in their country, or to her attorney, the bearer of these letters, the 170 lamb-florins† of Flemish money and other goods in their keeping formerly belonging to the said Thomas, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. Wish them farewell in the name of Him by whom kings reign and princes have dominion.

London, 3rd November, A.D. 1361. *Latin.*

**234.** [The same to * * the Town of *Bury* (St. Edmunds ?).]

Desiring them to assist Thomas de Mildenhale, citizen and ironmonger of London, to recover his runaway apprentice,

* By charter of Henry III., granted in the fiftieth year of his reign (A.D. 1265), citizens of London were allowed to traffic with their merchandise wheresoever they pleased within the King's dominion, as well by sea as land; on the other hand, great restriction had always been placed upon merchant strangers, *i.e.*, non-freemen, trading within the City, either by wholesale or retail. An endeavour to remove this was made by the Statute of York, passed in the ninth year of Edward III.; but the jealousy and apprehensions of the citizens became thereby so excited that the King, two years later, issued letters patent declaring that the privileges allowed to merchant strangers should in no wise affect the rights or liberties secured to the City by the Great Charter.

† *Floreni ad multonem*, or moutons-d'or. *Vide* Letter No. 201, *supra*, note §.

Andrew, son of William Bruwere, who is understood to be staying in the town of Bury; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 18th October, 38 (Edward III. A.D. 1364).

*French.*

**235.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Lynne* (co. Norfolk).

Desiring them to compel Henry Walton, of "Bristouwe" (Bristol), residing in their town, to satisfy Robert Corn, citizen of London, of a debt of 200*l.* sterling, due under a bond.

London, 26th August, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders, dated 29th March, 39 (Edward III. A.D. 1365).

*Latin.*

**236.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Gloucestre* (Gloucester).

Desiring them to assist William de Stokesby, taverner and citizen of London, to recover his runaway apprentice, Robert Lyes, of Hales, in the county of Salop, who is understood to be living in their town; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them in his keeping.

London, 27th August, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

**237.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bartone on Humbre* (Barton-on-Humber).

Renewing the request made in Letter No. 224, *supra*.

London, 1st June, 34 Edward III. (A.D. 1360).

*French.*

A note of three similar letters having been sent to the same on behalf of John Bret, John atte Harpe, Hugh de Ware, and John de Graveneye, the respective dates of which are not inserted.

238. The Mayor, Aldermen, Recorder, and Sheriffs of the City of London to the most high and most excellent Prince the Lord Edward, King of England, &c.

Acknowledging the receipt of the King's gracious letters desiring to be informed as to the truth of an alleged affray by reason of a stream of water* which used to run towards the Thames, near the hostel lately belonging to Edward de Mountagu, Knt., in the ward of Queenhithe; and certifying that on the 14th day of July last past an inquiry into the matter had been instituted by good and sufficient men of the neighbourhood on oath, who reported that on the day aforesaid a great storm of rain had come on so suddenly that the water could not pass away without inflicting great damage on various houses in the vicinity, and that in order to prevent this, and only for the public good, the servants of Madame de Gistels, who resided in the neighbourhood, had broken down a wall of the house of John Tornegold, to make a quick passage for the water. Whereupon the said John had challenged their right to do this, but without any discussion or affray, so that no riot ensued on that account. God Almighty give him a long reign, with health of body and mind, and victory over his enemies.

London, 11th August, 37 Edward III. (A.D. 1363).

*French.*

239. [The same to the much honoured Father in God * *]

Informing him that contrary to the franchise of the City

* The name of this stream was probably "Desborne" or "Dosborne." Stow mentions a street of this name as running down south to the Thames, which he had read of as being in the parish of St. Mary Somerset in the twenty-second year of Edward III., and lying near the tenement of Edward de Mountacute, Knt. *Vide* Strype's Stow's 'Survey,' book iii. p. 208.

of London, John de Cliftone, Marshal of the King's Exchequer, had received a commission sealed with the seal of the said Exchequer within the said City, to make inquest of land and tenements of outlaws, be they for felony or for trespass, which matter appertained to the Mayor of the said City as to the King's Exchequer within the same, as in the charter* of the lord the King granted to the citizens of the said City is more fully contained. Might it please him, therefore, to grant a commission to Stephen de Cavendysshe, Mayor of the said City, and the King's escheator within the same, and to the aforesaid John de Cliftone, to make such inquest, so that the said franchise of the City and the King's right might the better in all points be preserved. The Holy Spirit have him ever in his keeping.

London, 9th August, 37 Edward III. (A.D. 1363).

*French.*

**240.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Berkweye* (Barkway, co. Herts).

Certifying that a grey horse and black bag, which, together with certain other goods and chattels, had been taken from Thomas de Fentone, servant of Hugh Southerne, citizen of London, on suspicion of his character, are the property of the said Hugh, and desiring them, therefore, to restore the same; in such manner as they would wish their

* By the first charter of Edward III., dated 6th March, in the first year of his reign, and granted to the citizens of London with the assent of Parliament, it was declared that the Steward, Marshals, or Clerk of the Market of the King's household should not thenceforth sit within the liberty of the City of London, nor exercise any office there, nor any way draw any citizen of the said City to plead without the liberties of the same concerning any matters arising within the liberty of the same City; and that no escheator, or other officers, should thenceforth exercise the office of escheator within the liberties of the said City; but that the Mayor of the said City for the time being should exercise the office of escheator within the said liberty on condition that he took his oath that he would faithfully exercise the said office, and that he would answer therefor to the King and his heirs, as he ought to do.

folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 16th November, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

*Temp.* ADAM DE BURY, MAYOR, *anno* 39 Edward III. [A.D. 1364—5].

**241.** The Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London to the Most Reverend Father in Christ, Pope Urban (V.).

Letter testimonial in favour of Robert Pynk, Doctor of Sacred Theology, Provincial Prior of the Order of Preaching Friars* in England, on whom the University of Oxford had conferred the honour of the doctorate, and who had for twenty years or more preached the word of God in the said City in the presence of the King, the Queen, the Prince, dukes, earls, and other nobles of the kingdom, as well as before archbishops, bishops, and other prelates of the Church, as also the common people in nearly every part of England; and asking his Holiness to receive him and to expedite his business.

London, 8th Kalends December [24th November], A.D. 1364. *Latin.*

**242.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Erehithe* (Erith).

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that the tun of flax which they had taken from "Reingnald" Love, citizen of London, on suspicion, was really his property, and requesting that it might be restored to him for love's sake, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 30th November, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

* Dominicans or Black Friars. A copy of this letter is also to be found in the City Records, Letter Book G, fol. 139 *b*.

**243.** The same to the Echevins and Bailiffs of the Town of *Durdraght* (Dordrecht).

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that whereas John Jonessone van Brugge de "Durdright," John van Brugge Arnaldessone, and John Plastrer, son of John Plastrer de "Durdright," jointly owned a ship called the "Seinte Marie de Durdraght"; the said John Plastrer having brought the ship to the port of London, it was there seized by Philip Fitz Nichol, citizen and merchant of London, for a debt of 6*l.* sterling due to him from the aforesaid John Jonessone and John Arnaldessone, which sum had been recovered by the said Philip in the Sheriffs' Court of London, and had been paid by the said John Plastrer on their behalf. To this testimony they are asked to give credence.

London, 13th September, A.D. 1359. *Latin.*

**244.** The same to the Echevins, Burgomasters, and Council of the same.

Certifying that on the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude (28th October), 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364), Peter Colyber, burgess of "Dordraght," and Gostyne Petyrsone, of the same, had safely arrived in the port of London with their ships laden with wine, and there having discharged their cargo, had delivered the same to John Maleyt, John Wylyngham, and their companions. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 18th December, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364). *French.*

**245.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Towns of *Jernemouthe* (Yarmouth) and *Kirkele* (Kirkley, co. Suffolk).

Certifying that on Wednesday next after the Feast of the Conception of Our Lady (8th December), 38 Edward

III. (A.D. 1364), Roger Holiwell, master of the ship called "Welfare de Orewell," Robert Bonde, master of the ship called "La plente de Sayere" (?), John Knight, master of the ship called "Myghel de Wenetone," and Thomas Bakere, master of the ship called "Raulyn Gobbe," of London, had safely arrived in the port of London, and having discharged their cargo of red herring from "Jernemouthe," had delivered the same to John Blakeneye, Stephen Gloucestre, Thomas Wylford, and others of the trade of fishmongers. To this testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 18th December, 38 Edward III. (A.D. 1364).

*French.*

**246.** The Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the City of London to the Doge (Giovanni Delfino) and Council of *Venice.*

Certifying under their Common Seal that Philip de Legh, of London, late a notary by apostolic authority, deceased, had been a true notary so long as he lived; and that Master William de Bridport, a notary by apostolic and imperial authority, had been clearly proved to be a true notary; and that all obligations, instruments, and records by them made in the matter of a debt due by Sir Thomas Bysset and Sir Walter de Lesseley, Knights, of Scotland, to William de Neuton, late citizen of London, and Matthew Broun, now citizen of the same, were true, trustworthy, and valid. Desire them, therefore, to see justice done in their Court to Philip de Neuton, brother and executor of the said William, and to the said Matthew Broun, according to the force, form, and effect of the obligations and instruments aforesaid, as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 18th December, A.D. 1364. *Latin.*

**247.** The same to the Priors of the Arts and Standard-bearer of Justice, the People and Commonalty of *Florence.**

A letter similar to the above.

London, 18th December, A.D. 1364. *Latin.*

**248.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Echevins, Burgomasters, Bailiffs, and Judges of the Town of *Flyssyng* (Flushing) *in Seland.*

Desiring them to restore to Simon de Mordone, citizen of London, the last of white herring which had been seized on board a ship of "Flyssyng" belonging to the said Simon, Giles Horn being master, when in a certain port called "Coupmanhavene,"† within the dominion of the King of the Danes; in such manner as they would wish their merchants to be treated in like case or weightier. Wish them farewell in the name of Him by whom kings reign and princes have dominion.

London, 15th February, 39 Edward III. A.D. 1364. *Latin.*

**249.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Norhamptone* (Northampton).

Certifying that a certain Fremond de la Port de Norhamptone had complained that having given to Hugh Hegham, clerk, 6 marks sterling to pay to Gilbert Bonet, he had only paid him 2 marks of that sum. On the other hand, the said Hugh alleged that the said Fremond had sold 40 gallons of sweet wine at Northampton, at 28 pence the gallon, belonging to the said Hugh, and it was on this account that he had received the 6 marks, and not for the purpose of paying the said Gilbert. He further declared that some time afterwards the said Fremond had come to him and borrowed 2 marks, in order to satisfy a

* *Vide* Letter No. 1, *supra*, note.

† Copenhagen.

portion of a debt which he owed to the said Gilbert, and that he had paid Gilbert this sum, on behalf of the said Fremond as a loan, and had never been repaid. The said Fremond alleged that he had never sold any wine belonging to the said Hugh. They are desired to inquire into the particulars of the matter, and to send information by bearer as to the result.

No date. *French.*

**250.** Innocent,* &c., to his most dear son in Christ, Charles (IV.), Emperor of the Romans.

Was much distressed at the news sent him by his reverend brother Taillerand,† Bishop of Albano, the Papal Nuncio, of the capture of John,‡ King of the French, whilst fighting for his country, and of the captivity and loss of many princes and nobles. The Church had ever tried to negotiate between the Kings of England and of France,§ but up to that time with little effect. Would know no peace of mind till the captives were set at liberty, and therefore writes to his Highness to use his interest with the King of England and the noble prince

* Pope Innocent VI. A letter of credence from him addressed to Edward, Prince of Wales, on behalf of the same Taillerand and of Nicholas, Cardinal of St. Vitalis, with exhortations for peace, and dated 5 Nones October (11th October), in the fourth year of his pontificate (A.D. 1356), is entered in the City Records, Letter Book G, folio 53.

† Son of Elias Talleyrand, Comte de Perigord, Bishop of Auxerre in 1329; created Cardinal of St. Peter ad Vincula in 1331, and Bishop of Albano in 1348. Sent as Papal Legate to France in 1356, when he took a prominent part in attempting to negotiate a peace between the Kings of England and France immediately before the battle of Poitiers; and in the following year proceeded to England to mediate between them. It was greatly owing to his good offices that a truce was made between England and France till Easter 1359. *Vide* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. pp. 338, 348, 357; Ciacon., 'Hist. Pontif. Roman.,' vol. ii. p. 430; Walsingham, 'Hist. Angl.,' vol. i. p. 283.

‡ John de Valois, taken prisoner by the Black Prince at the battle of Poitiers, 19th September, 1356, and carried to London, where he was lodged in the Savoy.

§ Clement VI., predecessor to Innocent VI. in the papal chair, had been no less zealous in endeavouring to bring about a peace between these two kings. *Vide* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. pp. 184, 202.

his son towards accomplishing this object,* in full confidence that, with the aid of Him who calmed the waves of the sea for the feet of St. Peter that the watery path might afford him a firm resting-place for his footsteps, he would be able to effect the liberation of the King and the nobles whom the fortune of war had placed within their power.

No date. *Latin.*

**251.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgesses of the Town of *Donkirke* (Dunkirk), in Flanders.

It had been certified on oath that John Horn, citizen of London, had entrusted to John Cartyn, one of their burgesses, 14 pipes and 3 tuns of ale, of the value of 15 *livres*, to sell and to pay him the proceeds, which had not been paid. They are, therefore, desired to enforce payment of the same, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 22nd March, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{4}{5}$).
*French.*

A note of a second and third letter having been sent to the same on a similar matter, dated respectively the 4th July and 5th November the same year.†

Also of a fourth letter on a similar matter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Sandewych*, dated the 20th December (the same year).

*Latin.*

* Acting on this suggestion, the Emperor appears to have written two letters to the King of England, who in his reply, dated the 13th November, 1356, acknowledging the receipt of them, declares that if peace could be obtained he would be in the highest degree gratified that it should be brought about by means of his offered mediations. *Vide* Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 343.

† Letter No. 258, *infra.*

252. John Pecchie, Mayor of the City of London, in England, to all Justices or their Lieutenants.

Informing them that Pierre de Villebeon, esquire, son of Sire de Villebeon, in Gastinoys, was being held hostage in London for a certain number of florins for the ransom of the fortresses of Tournelles les Villemarchaz in Gastinoys, which sum was owing to the lord the King of England; and desiring them, therefore, on the King's behalf and his own, to certify clearly under their seal the names and surnames of those who were bound by the said ransom, and also of those who had received money on that account, and the respective amounts, as it was understood to be the fact that large sums had been received and levied on the country. They are requested to do this in order that the King might receive his due, and that the said hostage might be set at liberty to return to his country, as both he and his friends desired. May it please them to do this much for the lord the King and for him (the writer), as they would wish done for them in like case or weightier; and to send information by bearer as to what their pleasure is.

London, the last day of May, 36 Edward III. A.D. 1362.

*French.*

253. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Very Reverend Father in God, Thomas (Percy), Bishop of Norwich.

Informing him that Edmund Hemenhale, late citizen of London, by his will proved and enrolled in the Guildhall* of the said City, had devised to his son Thomas 60*l.* sterling, and other goods and chattels to the value of †, and had appointed his executor, Stephen de Tutyngton, parson of the church of "Hegestrete,"‡ in the diocese of Norwich,

* Hust. Roll, No. 77 (178), A.D. 1349.

† Sum omitted in the original.

‡ Qy. Hessett, co. Suffolk.

to be guardian of the said Thomas until he should come to full age. And forasmuch as the said Stephen had lately died intestate within his diocese, it was understood that the administration of the above goods and chattels had passed into his (the bishop's) hands, and the said Thomas had become their orphan.* He is, therefore, especially desired to safeguard the same in the interest of the said orphan, that there might be no necessity to seek other remedy. Should he desire anything on his part, he would find them ready to do what they could. The Holy Spirit have him in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**254.** The same to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Councillors of the Town of *Durdright* (Dordrecht).

Henry Pykard and Thomas de Notyngham, citizens of London, had complained that a certain ship of theirs called the "Seinte Marie" had been seized at the suit of Henry Boudewynessone, who had declared that a certain sum of money was owing to him in respect of the same. The said Henry and Thomas and many others had publicly certified on oath that no such sum of money was due to the said Henry Boudewynessone nor to any one else in respect of the said ship, as more fully appears in a certain deed sealed with the seals of the said Henry and his partner, and also the seals of the Barons of Sandwich. This had been produced before the said burgomasters by the said

* The Corporation of London formerly had, by ancient custom, which was confirmed by charter of Richard II. granted to the citizens in the first year of his reign, with the assent of Parliament, the custody of all freemen's orphans. The appointment of their guardians and the administration of their goods and chattels appertained to a Court of Orphans, presided over by the Common Serjeant, which Court formed part of the jurisdiction of the Court of Aldermen. Since the repeal by statute (4 Geo. I. c. 18) of the City custom under which citizens were prohibited from disposing by will of more than one-third of their personal estate, the remainder being paid into the City Chamber in trust for their widows and orphans, the functions of this Court of Orphans have entirely ceased. *Vide* Bohun's 'Privileg. Lond.,' p. 324; Norton's 'Comment.,' pp. 392–3.

Thomas de Notyngham, who had offered at the time to make oath before them that no such sum was due; but for this they had no leisure, owing to the war* in which they were then engaged. It was understood, on the other hand, that the said Henry Boudewynessone had complained of a certain ship of his having been illegally seized in the City of London, to his great loss. In respect of this charge, they are informed that, the said Henry and his brother having feloniously killed a man in the City aforesaid, the Sheriffs had taken the ship, alleged to have been seized by the writers, into the King's hand, as forfeited to him according to the law of England.†

No date (A.D. 1359). *Latin.*

**255.** The same to the Steward and Bailiffs of the Town of *Drougheda* (Drogheda), in Ireland.

Stephen White, citizen of London, had complained that Thomas Godman de Hayston, who frequently visited their town, was bound to him in the sum of 10*l.* 9*s.* sterling, not a penny of which had he yet received. They are desired, therefore, as soon as they can discover the said Thomas in their town, to summon him before them and compel him to satisfy the said Stephen, or his attorney, the bearer, of the said debt; and in other matters to favour and assist the said Stephen and Isabel his wife, in such manner as they would wish their own folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 19th April, 34 Edward III. (A.D. 1359). *French.*

* Upon the expiration of the truce between England and France in 1359, an expedition into France was set on foot by Edward III. the like of which, according to Froissart, was never seen before. Among the mercenaries who awaited the arrival of the King at Calais from the beginning of August till November of that year were many Brabanters, Flemings, and Hainaulters.

† Formerly at common law all felonies occasioned the forfeiture of lands or goods. Kerr's 'Blackstone's Comment.,' vol. iv. pp. 82–3.

**256.** The same to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Councillors of the Town of *Dourdright* (Dordrecht).

On the same subject as No. 254, *supra*. Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that whereas Henry Boudewynessone had claimed a share in the ship called "la Seinte Marie" arrested by them, it had been proved on oath that Henry Pykard and Thomas de Notyngham had purchased the same at Sandwich of the said Henry Boudewynessone and his partner, and had fully paid for it, as appeared by deed sealed with the seals of the said Henry and his partner, and also the seal of the Mayoralty of the town of Sandwich, which had been produced before them. Touching the charge made by the said Henry Boudewynessone that a ship of his had been illegally seized in the City of London, they are informed that it had been seized by the Sheriffs as forfeited to the King by reason that the said Henry and two of his brothers had feloniously killed a man within the said City. They had also been given to understand by the said Henry Boudewynessone that the King of England had illegally arrested and imprisoned him in the town of Calais, and had thence removed him to the King's prison of "Flete," in London. They are informed that the said Henry had laden the aforesaid ship called "la Seinte Marie" at "Lenne" (Lynn) with malt belonging to the King to convey to the town of Calais, but that, owing to the negligence of the said Henry, the cargo had perished at sea; whereupon the King had seized and imprisoned him, but afterwards had, at their earnest request, forgiven him and set him free, together with the aforesaid ship. They are, therefore, urgently desired to surrender the same to the said citizens of London, in such manner as they themselves or any one of them would wish to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 2nd October, A.D. 1359. *Latin.*

**257.** The same to the Mayor of the City of *Bourdeux* (Bordeaux).

Desiring him to assist Margery, the widow and executrix

of John, son of Thomas de Cavendisshe, late mercer of the City of London, to recover the sum of 80*l.* sterling which the said John had formerly lent to William Caban, citizen of London, and Arnald de Malegn (?), merchant, and had not been repaid.

London, 8th March, 35 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{0}{1}$).

*French.*

*Temp.* ADAM DE BURY and JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYORS,* *anno* 40 [Edward III. A.D. 1365—136$\frac{6}{7}$].

**258.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town of *Donkirke* (Dunkirk), in Flanders.

Reminding them of two former letters which had been sent, and renewing the request contained in letter No. 251, *supra.*

London, 5th November, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

**259.** The same to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Certifying that it had been proved on oath that Cristine Pouncy was and is the daughter and heir of Geffrey Pouncy and of Agnes his wife, begotten in lawful wedlock according to the laws of God and Holy Church; also that Margery Stryke was likewise daughter and heir of William Stryke and of Joan his wife, as appears by a letter patent under the authentic seal of the Reverend Father in God Simon (de Sudbury), Bishop of London; the which Agnes and Joan were the legitimate sisters of one William Haryngey, and

* Adam de Bury was re-elected Mayor and sworn on the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude (28th October), 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365), and held office till the 28th day of January, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{5}{6}$), on which day he was discharged at the King's commandment, and John Lovekyn elected in his place. The latter continued in office until succeeded by James Andrew on the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, 41 Edward III. City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 233; Fabyan's 'Chronicle,' ed. by Sir Henry Ellis, 1811, p. 477; and Letter Book G, fol. 196.

had lately died at "Caleys"; and desiring them, therefore, for love's sake to be favourable and gracious unto the said Cristine and Margery, who had business to transact in their parts, according to the laws and usages of the town of "Caleys," in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 7th November, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter.

*Latin.*

260. Letters patent of Simon (de Sudbury), Bishop of London.

Certifying that Thomas de Bolyngton, of the town of Hatfield Regis, in the county of Essex and diocese of London, was son and heir of Thomas de Bolyngton, of the same town, deceased, and of Agnes de Ledbury his wife, born in lawful wedlock according to common report, and that both before and after his birth other sons and daughters had been born to the same, as appeared in an inquisition taken by his commissary and open to public inspection.

Dated "Klaketone" (Clacton, co. Essex), 13 Kalends of August (20th July), A.D. 1363, and in the second year of his consecration.

*Latin.*

261. The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Southampton.*

Desiring them to restore the distress they had taken for custom from John de Lyncoln, son of Thomas de Lyncoln, of Lynne (co. Norfolk), bound apprentice to Adam de Wroxham, mercer of London, as he is a citizen of London, and therefore is and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion, by

charters granted to the said City by the progenitors of the lord the King.

London, 22nd January, 39 Edward III. (A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of *Southampton* on behalf of Robert Monk.

*Latin.*

**262.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Leycestre* (Leicester).

Desiring them to assist William de Lyverpol, citizen and goldsmith of the City of London, to recover John de Lyverpol, his brother, who had been bound apprentice to him for a term of ten years, but had run away and was now living in the town of "Leycestre." The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 7th March, 40 Edward III. (A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Chichestre* on behalf of John Mallyng, "smyth," for the recovery of his apprentice Stephen, son of William Maior, dated 20th May, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*Latin.*

*Temp.* JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYOR, *anno* 40 [Edward III. A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$—$\frac{6}{7}$].

A note of two letters having been sent on behalf of Nicholas Extone,* fishmonger, respecting a runaway apprentice, &c.,

* Afterwards Mayor in 1386 and 1387. Was a strenuous supporter of the freemen fishmongers against the party of John de Northampton, who, when Mayor in 1382, endeavoured to break down their monopoly and extend their privileges to strangers, *i.e.*, non-freemen. It is recorded that Nicholas Brembre, his predecessor in the Mayoralty, and others endeavoured to persuade Nicholas Extone, at the time he was Mayor, to join them in a plot against the life of the Duke of Glou-

whereof one was sent to the Bailiffs of *Abyndone* (Abingdon), in the county of Berks, and the other to the Sheriffs of the same county, dated 2nd July, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366).

Also of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Cambridge*, concerning a runaway apprentice of John Welles, leatherseller, dated 3rd July, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366).

*Latin.*

**263.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Ralph Spigurnell, Constable of *Dovere* (Dover), or his Deputy.

Desiring him to assist William de Alvetheley, citizen and "spicer" of London, to recover John atte Mede de Storteford, in the county of Hertford, who had been bound apprentice to him for a term of seven years and had suddenly left his service, and was understood to be living in their town. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 16th July, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of *Northampton* on behalf of Thomas atte Crouche, "sporier," dated 16th July, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366).

*Latin.*

**264.** The same to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Maydenhethe* (Maidenhead), in the county of Berks.

Certifying that John Pryde, tailor, William Smart, "smyth," and Adam Irysshe, late "servantz" in the City of London, who had been seized, together with their goods and chattels, on suspicion that they were men of evil character, had been proved on trustworthy evidence to be loyal men and of good repute, and desiring, therefore, their

cester, who was to be invited to a supper and then murdered, but without effect. Walsingham's 'Hist. Angl.,' vol. ii. p. 150.

release, together with their goods and chattels, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 24th July, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

Here follow the names of witnesses to the contents of the above letter. *Latin.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Rouchestre* (Rochester) on behalf of John Gros, concerning custom not to be paid, dated 8th August, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366).

Also of a letter having been sent to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Pennerethe* (Penrith), in the county of "Carlelle" (Carlisle), on behalf of Agnes Pykerell, for the recovery of Matthew Wynefeld, of "Danecastre" (Doncaster), her runaway apprentice, dated 18th August, 40 (Edward III. A D. 1366).

*Latin.*

**265.** Letters patent of Adam de Bury, Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that John de Radeclive, son of John de Radeclive, called "Taillour," of London, born in the parish of St. Botolph without Aldersgate, had a portion of his left ear bitten off, whilst in the service of one Clement Spice, by a savage horse belonging to his master, to such a degree that the ear remained unhealed at the present day; and in order that his character might not suffer by incurring the suspicion of his having been punished for theft or other matter, the said John had prayed them to testify to the truth, which they hereby do.

London, 4th December, 39 Edward III. A.D. 1365.

*Latin.*

*Temp.* ADAM DE BURY and JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYORS,* *anno* 40 [Edward III. A.D. 1365—136$\frac{6}{7}$].

**266.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Wyrcestre* (Worcester).

John Mordon, stockfishmonger and citizen of London, had complained that whereas he had divers merchandise to sell in their city on every day of the week, like as other folk of the City of London had been hitherto accustomed to do time out of mind, he had been constrained to sell only on the usual market days, contrary to the law merchant.† They are, therefore, desired to suffer him to sell his merchandise from day to day at his will, as all citizens of London have hitherto been accustomed, without impeachment or disturbance of any, and to send information as to what they are willing to do in the matter, and how and wherefore they had annoyed him.

London, 27th September, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

**267.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Suthamptone* (Southampton).

John Aubrey, citizen of London, had complained of their proposal to confiscate a tun of oil which Thomas Gernet, his agent, had entrusted to John Chaundeller to sell for the benefit of the said John Aubrey, on the ground that the said John Chaundeller had sold it by retail.‡ Express surprise at this, inasmuch as citizens of London had been accustomed hitherto to do this without impeachment.

* *Vide* Letter No. 258, *supra*, note.

† Or *Lex Mercatoria*. A law differing from the common law of England, and peculiar to merchants, forming a part of the laws of the realm. It provided a speedy determination to disputes arising among merchants trading in a borough to which they did not themselves belong, the judges being ordinarily the Mayor, Bailiffs, or principal officer of the borough.

‡ *Vide* Letter No. 232, *supra*, note *, p. 107.

Furthermore, they had prevented the said Thomas Gernet from selling his master's goods by his own proper balances and measures, as he had hitherto been accustomed to do without impeachment or disturbance of any. They are, therefore, desired to suffer the said Thomas and all other agents of the said John Aubrey to sell his merchandise in manner as they had always been accustomed, and to assist them in law and justice, in such manner as they would wish their fellow citizens to be treated in like case or weightier, and not to confiscate the said tun of oil by reason aforesaid. Should they desire anything on their part, they (the writers) would be found ready to do what they could, according to law and reason. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 10th October, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

268. The same to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Warbultone* (Warbleton), in the County of Sussex.

Desiring them to assist Henry Sket, citizen and stockfishmonger of London, to recover possession of Robert Bat, his apprentice, who had suddenly left his service and was understood to be residing in their town.

London, 3rd December, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Chester* on behalf of Walter Persone, servant of John Piel, whose goods had been seized on suspicion, dated 16th February, 40 Edward III. (A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$).

*Latin.*

269. The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Southampton.*

Desiring them to restore the distress they had taken

from William Malewayn for payment of custom and toll, inasmuch as he was a freeman of the City of London, the citizens whereof are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion; and to cease for the future to take such distress.

London, 15th May, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to John de Warton, Bailiff of the Countess of Pembroke,* in the Town of *Torkysey* (Torksey), in the county of Lincoln, on behalf of William Tubbe de Leycestre, that he should not in future be compelled to pay custom or toll, dated 21st May, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

Also of a letter having been sent to Thomas de Wake, Lord of Blysworth, in the county of Northampton, on behalf of an apprentice of William de Norton, saddler, dated 15th June, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*Latin.*

## *Temp.* JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYOR, *anno* 40 Edward III. [A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$—$136\frac{6}{7}$].

**270.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Monsieur Richard Dammory and Monsieur Nicholas Dammory.

John Nichole, a surgeon of the City of London, had complained that his goods and chattels, to wit, three horses, three dozen pieces of cloth of russet and blanket, and seven stone of wool, had been seized on suspicion by Robert Gamage, bailiff of the said Monsieur Richard in the town of "Edyngtone." Certify that the said John had been proved to be a loyal man and of good repute, and that the goods aforesaid belonged to him and to none other; and desire them, therefore, for love's sake to restore the same, in such

* The Lady Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of King Edward III., first wife of John Hastings, second Earl of Pembroke.

manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 1st June, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366). *French.*

271. The same to Thomas (de Wolmersty), Abbot of Waltham Holy Cross, his Steward or Deputy in the Town of *Suthweld* (South Weald), in the County of Essex.

Understood from William Peres de Blakemore that William Herde, the abbot's bailiff in the town of "Suthweld," had seized his horse in the said town on suspicion that it had been stolen. Certify that the said William Peres had purchased the same in London from one John Wastel, citizen of London, on Friday next after the Feast of the Conception of Our Lady (8th December), in the thirty-ninth year of the reign of King Edward III. (A.D. 1365), in the presence of good men of the said City; and desire them, therefore, to restore the same, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 8th June, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366). *French.*

272. The same to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

John de Chichestre, hosteller and citizen of London, had complained that whereas Philip le Walsshe, lately residing in the said City, had bought a number of "ermynes" of one Peter de Mildenhale, pelterer, of the same city, of the value of 20*l.* sterling, he, the said John, had, at the request of the said Philip, become surety for him in a bond for 40*l.* for payment of the same, of which sum the said Philip had only paid 70*s.* when he betook himself suddenly out of England. The aforesaid Peter, therefore, had sued the complainant in the Court of John Brickelesworth, one of the Sheriffs of London, and had recovered the balance due,

and the said John de Chichestre had been cast into prison until the same had been paid, to the great prejudice of his estate. A copy of the record of these proceedings is enclosed, to which they are asked to give credence, and to cause the said Philip, who is understood to be living in their town, to satisfy the said John de Chichestre of the debt aforesaid, as well as of all costs and damages for imprisonment.

London, 21st August, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

*Temp.* ADAM DE BURY, MAYOR, *anno* 39 [Edward III. A.D. 1364—136$\frac{5}{6}$].

**273.** Letters of protection granted by John Peche, Mayor, under the seal of the Mayoralty, in favour of John de Ville, clerk of the Lady Queen Blanche,* who had been arrested in London and kept prisoner at the suit of Perrinet de Villeboen,† esquire, and others, on the charge of having received money for the ransom of the fortress of "Tournelles les Villes marchaz," in Gastinoys, whereof "Dygon"‡ de Molyneus had formerly been captain. The said John had denied having ever received anything on that account; and the parties having agreed to appear in London for judgment, he is hereby taken under the protection of the lord the King and of the Mayor, and his person and goods are set free.

London, Saturday next after the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, 28th May, 36 Edward III. A.D. 1362.

*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of *Kaxstone* (Caxton), in the county of Cambridge, on behalf of John Stokyngbury, fishmonger, dated 12th March, 39 (Edward III. A.D. 136$\frac{4}{5}$).

*Latin.*

* Queen Dowager of France.

† *Vide* Letter No. 252, *supra.*

‡ "Dijon" or "Dicon."

**274.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Nicholas Stukle, Sheriff of Cambridge and Huntingdon.

John Stokyngbury, citizen and fishmonger of London, had complained that three horses of his, one being white, another black, and the third bay, had been seized on suspicion by one John Frewylle, Knt., and his bailiffs and constables of the town of "Kaxtone" (Caxton, co. Cambridge), when in the custody of Richard Chester, one of the servants of the said John Stokyngbury. It had been proved on oath that the said John was a loyal man and of good repute, and that the said horses belonged to him and to none other. Desire therefore, for love's sake that the same be restored, in such manner as he would wish his folk to be treated in like case or weightier, and to send word as to the cause of such grievance being inflicted on a citizen of London, and what had become of the said Richard Chester. The Lord have him ever in his keeping.

London, 13th May, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

**275.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Gildeforde* (Guildford).

John Raleghe, citizen of London, had complained that one coverlet, one pair of sheets, three hoods, one pair of linen cloths, and one pair of shoes had been lately seized, on the suspicion that Gilbert Wolford, his servant, was disloyal and of a bad character. Certify that it had been proved on oath that the said Gilbert was a loyal man, and that the above goods were the proper goods and chattels of the said Gilbert and of none other, and desire them, therefore, to restore the same to him or his attorney, the bearer, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 29th May, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365).

*French.*

**276.** The same to their Very Reverend and Honoured Father in God, Simon (Islip),* Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England.

Had heard that he had summoned John de Whytefeld, one of the officers of the lord the King within the City of London, to appear before him on the morrow of St. John the Baptist next to come, for an offence committed against him in his office. Ask his lordship that he will be pleased to inform them of the offence by letter, and they will willingly cause it to be redressed, if any there be, by the advice of their Council, for they would be very grieved that any offence should be committed within their jurisdiction and franchise affecting his lordship ; they had always been ready, in cases where complaint of any grievance had been made to them, to provide a speedy remedy. Pray him, therefore, to revoke the summons, and to grant a favourable ear to their good friend Robert de Kaytone, Common Serjeant, the bearer of these letters, who will address him on their behalf. Would always be found ready to further his wishes. The Almighty grant him a long life and increased honours.

London, 14th June, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365). *French.*

**277.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Suthamptone* (Southampton).

Had been informed by William Todenham, citizen of London, that certain goods of his had been seized in the hands of William de Retford, merchant and servant of the aforesaid William, by John Wytegood, receiver of custom in their town, for payment of custom and toll, contrary to charters granted by the King's progenitors to the citizens of London, whereby they are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. They are, therefore, desired to restore what had been taken, and to cease in future to demand any custom from him, lest a remedy should be sought in another way owing to their default, and further

* Nominated by Papal Bull dated 7th October, 1349 ; *ob.* 26th April, 1366.

to send word by bearer what they purpose doing in the matter, and to certify the reason why they had annoyed a citizen of London at this time. The Lord have them ever in his keeping.

London, 13th June, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1365). *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the same, dated 18th June, 39 Edward III., on behalf of William Mapel ; also to the Bailiffs of *Wyndesores* (Windsor) on behalf of John Chapman and Robert Russe, "brasiers,"* dated 20th June, 39 (Edward III.). *Latin.*

**278.** The same to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Norhamptone* (Northampton).

Certifying that Thomas Catworth, of Northampton, had come into the chamber of the Guildhall of London on the 16th day of February, 36 Edward III. (A.D. 1361½), and was there bound apprentice to Robert de Bexeford, tailor, for a term of eight years, and that he had suddenly left his master's service, and was understood to be residing in their town; they are, therefore, desired to assist the said Robert to recover possession of him, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 12th March, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 1361½). *French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Gloucestre* on behalf of John Chichel, horner, for his apprentice, dated 27th March, 39 Edward III. *Latin.*

**279.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Staunford* (Stamford), in the County of "Nichole" (Lincoln).

Had been informed by Walter Corby, citizen of London,

* Perhaps in this case bell-founders, inasmuch as both the names of "Chapman" and "Russe" (or Rous) figure conspicuously in the list of London citizens who "may have been" bell-founders, made by Mr. J. C. L. Stahlschmidt in his recent publication of 'Surrey Bells and London Bell-founders,' London, 1884.

that they had seized certain goods and chattels of his in their parts, to wit, one bag, eleven kerchiefs of "Eipre,"* and two pieces of "Bokerham,"† suspecting him to be disloyal and of bad repute. Certify that it had been proved on oath that the said Walter is a loyal man and of good repute, and that the aforesaid goods are the property of the said Walter and of none other, and desire them to restore the same to him, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 19th March, 39 Edward III. (A.D. 136⅘).

*French.*

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Bailiffs of *Kaxtone*, in the county of Cambridge, on behalf of John Stokyngbury, fishmonger, in respect of three horses in the custody of Richard Chester, dated 27th March, 39 Edward III. *Vide supra*, pp. 130, 131.

**280.** The same to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Neuport*, in Flanders.

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that John Lovekyn, citizen of London, had appointed William de Waleworth his attorney and proctor for receiving from Clays Cleward‡ and his friends or from their attorneys a certain sum of money in which he stood bound to the said John by certain contracts between them made. The impression of the seal with which the said William will give acquittance to the said Clays Cleward on behalf of the said John Lovekyn is herein given in red wax. Would be found ready to carry out their wishes as far as possible. God Almighty have them in his keeping.

London, 10th September, 39 Edward III. A.D. 1365.

*French.*

* Ypres in Flanders.

† Buckram, a coarse kind of cloth; derivation uncertain, but probably connected with the Middle High German *boc*, a he-goat.

‡ This name appears in Letter No. 212, *supra*.

# ROLL No. II.

*Temp.* JOHN LOVEKYN, *anno* 40 Edward III.
[A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$—$\frac{6}{7}$].

**II. 1.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs of the City of London to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Informing them that about the Feast of St. Katherine (25th November) last past, one William de Neuburgh came before John de Brickelesworth, one of the Sheriffs of the City of London, and brought a plea of trespass against one Thomas atte Leghe, whereupon the said Thomas was arrested. Terms having afterwards been arranged between the parties, the said William acknowledged himself satisfied in the presence of the Sheriff, and allowed the said Thomas to be set free and to be quit of the trespass. It was now understood that he was prosecuting the said Thomas in their town of Calais for the same trespass, contrary to law and reason. They are, therefore, desired to give credence to this testimony, and to prevent the said Thomas from being injured, as they would like their wishes to be respected in similar case.

London, 20th May, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

**II. 2.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Coventre* (Coventry).

Desiring them to assist Richard Marchant, citizen of London, and Agnes his wife, late wife of Henry Wolney of

their town, to recover certain goods and chattels belonging to the said Agnes, as appears by bill exhibited by the said Richard, herein enclosed, which had been detained by Henry Merynton, citizen of Coventry. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

London, 26th August, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).
*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Suthamtone* (Southampton) on behalf of William Mapel respecting non-payment of custom, with a certain clause in the same letter, to wit, "whereas we commanded you in another manner, to wit, in the time of Adam de Bury, Mayor, in the 39th year (Edward III.),"* dated the last day of August, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366).

Also of a letter sent to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Canterbury*, in the county of Kent, on behalf of Robert Hawkyn, weaver, concerning his runaway apprentice, dated 9th September, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 1366). *Latin.*

**II. 3.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that "Ortillus Frank van Nerynbergh," goldsmith, having accidentally fallen down on Saturday, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th August), A.D. 1366, in an infirmity of frenzy† and lost his senses, he had been removed in that state out of the City by one Hanekyn Flemyng, who out of charity undertook to convey him to his own country, in the hope that he might recover his health, please God; so that no evil suspicion should fall on the said Hanekyn in respect of the infirmity aforesaid.

London, 18th September, A.D. 1366. *Latin.*

* *Vide supra*, p. 133.

† "Infirmitate Frenesie": possibly what was once known as "the falling sickness," or kind of epilepsy.

**II. 4.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Suthamptone* (Southampton).

William Mapel, citizen of London, had complained of his merchandise having been seized for payment of custom, contrary to the charters granted to the said City by the ancestors of the lord the King, whereby its citizens are and ought to be quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion. Remind them that twice before* had letters been sent testifying that the said William was a freeman of the City of London, and again especially desire them to restore his merchandise, and to make good whatever damage he had sustained; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 17th October, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

**II. 5.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Est Jernemouthe* (East Yarmouth).

Richard Fraunceys, fishmonger of the City of London, had complained that on the 16th day of October, in the thirty-ninth year of the reign of King Edward III., he purchased from Simon Cook, of the town of "West Jernemouthe," eight lasts of red herring for 29*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling, price five and a half marks the last, the said Simon giving a guarantee that the same was good and legal merchandise; and by reason that the said Richard was ill and unable to be present when the same were to be measured, and on the strength of the guarantee and in the great confidence he placed in the said Simon, he left them to be measured in his absence; and the same were found to be not good nor according to agreement, to the great damage and loss of the said Richard. They are, therefore, desired to assist the said Richard, the

* *Vide supra*, pp. 133, 136.

bearer of these letters, and to examine the said Simon on the matter, and to grant a remedy according to their good discretion and the law merchant,* in such manner as they would wish their fellow burgesses to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 7th October, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Lincoln* on behalf of Thomas Bonauntre, "tapicer,"† concerning Peter, son of William de Leycestre, his runaway apprentice, &c., dated 24th October, 40 (Edward III.).

Also of a letter to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Oxford* on behalf of John Gedyngton, tailor, concerning Richard de Bodenham, his runaway apprentice, &c., dated 28th October, 40 (Edward III.).

Also of another letter sent to the Chancellor of the same, on the same subject, same date.

Also of a letter to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Feversham*, in the county of Kent, on behalf of Ralph de Rothyng, girdler, concerning Richard Bakere, his apprentice, &c., dated 18th November, 40 (Edward III.).

*Latin.*

**II. 6.** [The same?] to Monsieur John de Stokes, "Chivaler," Captain of *Seint Savours la Viscounte* (St. Sauveur, Normandy), or his Lieutenant.

William de Tudenham, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he had recently sent one William Conteshale, his apprentice, to the said town of "Seint Savours" with goods and merchandise, wherewith to traffic there on his behalf, the said goods, after the decease of the said William Conteshale, had been seized and remained so seized, to the

* *Vide supra*, I. 266, note †.

† A maker of tapestry or carpets.

great loss of the said William de Tudenham. It had been clearly shown on oath that the said William Conteshale had no share in the merchandise, which was the property of William de Tudenham, as was well known among English merchants. He is, therefore, desired to restore the same to the said William de Tudenham or his attorney, the bearer of these letters. The Holy Spirit have him ever in his keeping.

London, 12th November, 40 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYOR, *anno* 40 and 41 Edward III. [A.D. $136\frac{5}{6}$—7].

**II. 7.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Oxenford* (Oxford).

Informing them that many good citizens of London had certified upon oath that John de Botulphstone, dyer, residing in their town of "Oxenford," was indebted to John de Sewale, citizen of London and servant of John Lovekyn, citizen of the same, in the sum of 100*s.* sterling for merchandise bought of him, and desiring them, therefore, to cause him to satisfy the same, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier.

London, 11th January, 40 (Edward III. A.D. $136\frac{5}{7}$).

*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the City of *Wynchestre* on behalf of Giles de Kelseye, citizen and "tapicer" of the City of London, concerning John, son of Adam Horn, of "North Kelleseye," in the county of Lincoln, his runaway apprentice, dated 22nd January, 40 (Edward III.).

Also of a similar letter to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Suthamptone* on the same subject, dated 22nd January, 40 (Edward III.). *Latin.*

**II. 8.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Cauntebrigge* (Cambridge).

Informing them that it had been shown, on the testimony of many trustworthy citizens of London, that a light grey horse with saddle and bridle and a chestnut horse with saddle and bridle, which had been seized in their town for one John Baudac, styling himself "the son of the King of Judæa," who had hired them respectively from Simon Walsshman and Hugh Snewe, citizens of London, belonged to these two persons and to none other, and desiring them to restore the horses to the said Simon and Hugh, the bearers of these letters, in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 23rd January, 40 (Edward III. A.D. 136$\frac{6}{7}$).

*French.*

Here follow the names of the witnesses.

*Latin.*

**II. 9.** Letters patent of John Lovekyn, Mayor of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Appointing John Sonday, Stephen Baret, and William Prentys jointly and severally to collect and receive from citizens for the cleansing of the high road called "le West-watre gate," from Castle Baynard as far as the wall of the Dean of St. Paul's, near the wall of the Preaching Friars,* to wit, for every cart carrying timber, charcoal, stone, or water along the aforesaid road by the week one penny, and for every horse carrying packs along the said road by the week one halfpenny, and for every "croudwayn"† carrying entrails from St. Nicholas's Shambles along the same by the week one farthing, with power to distrain for the same on those

* Blackfriars.

† A cart with wheels; a crowd-barrow = a wheelbarrow. *Vide* Halliwell's 'Arch. Dict.'

unwilling to pay, by view of John de Podenhale, Gilbert Koo, and John de Asshehurst, up to the Feast of the Apostles SS. Simon and Jude (28th October).

London, 7th February, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1366/7).

*Latin.*

**II. 10.** John Lovekyn, Mayor of the City of London, to the Very Reverend Father in God, Simon (Langham), Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Notifying that—in obedience to his commands given at Westminster that inquiry should be made into the matter of certain goods and chattels lately seized in the City of London by Reynald, the King's searcher, upon the person of one John Mot de Fobbyngge, on board the ship [of] Heigne Van Dumburgh, by reason of a suspicious letter found upon the said Heigne—he (the Mayor) had, on Friday next after the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (25th January) last past, caused divers merchants and others to come before him in the Guildhall, who declared on oath, in the presence of the said Reynald, that the goods and chattels so seized were the property of the said John Mot and of none other, and that if they had perished at sea the said John Mot would have been the loser, and that no other person was interested to the extent of a penny nor a halfpenny in the said goods and chattels save him alone; to all of which he is asked to give credence. God Almighty have him ever in his keeping.

London, 1st February, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1366/7).

*French.*

**II. 11.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Testifying that they had heard from Adam Fraunceys, citizen of London, that a ship whereof Laurence Pierssone was master, and belonging to the said Adam and Laurence, had been seized by the water-bailiff at "Lesclus" (Sluys) by reason of the supposed bastardy of John de Bartone,

deceased, late servant of the said Adam; and certifying that it had been proved on the oath of the said Adam and of good and trustworthy men that the said John de Bartone had no share in the said ship, which had always belonged to the said Adam and Laurence for profit or loss. And further, as to the supposed bastardy of the said John de Bartone, it had been sufficiently proved that he had been born in wedlock, and that his father and mother were still alive. Request, therefore, all lords, judges, bailiffs, and other officers to give credence to this testimony, to the end that the said ship may be delivered up, as law and reason demand.

London, 3rd February, A.D. 1366 [136$\frac{6}{7}$]. *French.*

**II. 12.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to Sir Eustace Dabregescourt,* Knt.

Ralph Prot, fishmonger of the City of London and executor of the will of Richard Triple, late fishmonger of the same, had complained of having been prosecuted by divers folk to whom the said Richard was indebted, to the great impoverishment of the estate of the said Ralph, and had produced a bond whereby he (Sir Eustace) was found to be indebted to the said Richard in the sum of 1,580 *motouns dor*† of French money. He is, therefore, especially desired to pay the same to the said Ralph or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, in order that he may be able to discharge the debts of the said Richard, in accordance with his last will, and not be himself grievously harmed.

London, 5th February, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{6}{7}$). *French.*

* D'Abrichescourt. Much engaged in the French wars; taken prisoner at Poitiers, and rescued by his own men; was afterwards taken prisoner on two separate occasions, and died at Carantan, in Lower Normandy, in the year 1370. Longman's 'Life and Times of Edward III.,' vol. i. pp. 389, 391; Buchon's 'Froissart,' vol. i. p. 624.

† *Vide supra*, I. 201, note §.

## LETTERS *temp.* JOHN LOVEKYN, MAYOR, 41 Edward III. [A.D. 136$\frac{6}{7}$—7].

**II. 13.** Letters patent of John Lovekyn, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London, under the common seal of the said City.

Notifying that John de Blakeneye, citizen and fishmonger, had freighted a certain vessel at "Est Jernemouthe" (East Yarmouth) called "le Godeyere de Lubek," Arnold "van The Thorne," of "Lubek," being master, with red herring and other merchandise to the value of 200*l.*, and other merchants of the same town had shipped on board the same vessel red herring and other merchandise to the value of 300*l.* sterling, to be conveyed, with God's help, to the towns of Bordeaux or Bayonne, to make profit of the same for the said John de Blakeneye and the other merchants according as God might dispose. On the showing of the said John de Blakeneye, the said Arnold "van The Thorne" had carried the said ship and merchandise to Friesland, within the domain and power of the Duke of Holland, against his own wish and the wish of the other merchants, and to their great loss. Desire all persons, therefore, as a matter of courtesy and charity, to assist the said John de Blakeneye and the other merchants of "Est Jernemouthe" to recover their merchandise or its value against the aforesaid Arnold "van The Thorne" and his companions, as the law merchant* and the common law require.

London, 13th February, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1367 (*sic*).
*Latin.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Bailiffs and Constables of the Liberties of the Town of *Croydon* on behalf of William Lychefeld, "pouchemakere," and John Chalfhurst, son of William Chalfhurst, his apprentice, dated 18th February, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{6}{7}$). *Latin.*

* *Vide supra*, I. 266, note †.

**II. 14.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Notifying that on the 28th day of November, A.D. 1365, Robert Girdeler, citizen of London, and one Gerard Pitteman de Harderwyk entered into the following agreement, to wit, that the said Gerard should send to the said Robert in the City of London divers cables and cords, for which the said Robert should pay at the rate of 12*s.* for every hundred pounds of cables and cords, provided that when brought to London they satisfied the said Robert, and not otherwise; that on the 12th September last past the said Gerard sent by his agent John Squier, to the house of John de Wyrehale, water-bailiff of the Thames and host to the aforesaid Gerard (*sic*), eight cables and seven cords called "Hauusers," weighing in all 7,166 pounds, which did not please the said Robert, at the price aforesaid; that afterwards Reginald de Ferrers, the King's Sergeant-at-Arms, and Sir Robert de Crull, Clerk of the King's Navy, came to the house of the said John de Wyrehale and covenanted with the aforesaid John Squier to buy the said cables and cords, for which they paid in gold nobles of English money, in all to the amount of 35*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* Desire all persons to give credence to these letters, that neither the aforesaid Robert nor his attorney, nor his merchandise, might be arrested, impleaded, or annoyed by cause of the agreement aforesaid.

London, 26th February, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1366.

*Latin.*

**II. 15.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters, Echevins, and Council of the Town of *Lesclus* (Sluys).

Certifying that one Jacob Colne and Anne his wife had personally appeared before the writers, and that the said Anne had declared her free will to be that the said Jacob, her husband, should put up for sale all the lands, rents, tenements, goods, and chattels which he possessed in

the said town of "Lesclus" by the decease of Elizabeth Lanyns, her cousin; for which purpose the said Anne had given him full authority, inasmuch as she was so *grosse enzeynte* that she could not herself travel to their country without imperilling her life. Desire them to give credence to this testimony, in such manner as they themselves would wish their letters to be respected in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 24th February, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

A note that this letter was granted to the said Jacob and Anne his wife in full Husting held on Monday, the Feast of St. Peter in Cathedrâ (22nd February), 41 (Edward III.).

*Latin.*

**II. 16.** The same to Master Roger de Fretone.

Had heard on good authority that the simple and poor hospital of "Bedlem"* without Bishopsgate, in the suburb of the City of London, founded by their ancestors in honour of the glorious Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, God Almighty, was about to be let to farm by the Bishop of "Bedlem,"† to the great injury and prejudice of the said hospital and of the said City, inasmuch as the master and the brethren living within the same were men of good repute, and had commenced a great work of a chapel there, which work

* Or Bethlehem. Founded, in 1246, by Simon Fitz Mary, one of the Sheriffs of London, to be a priory of canons, with brethren and sisters, and especially to receive the Bishop of Bethlehem, canons, brothers, and messengers of the church of Bethlehem, as often as they had occasion to travel to London. A church or oratory was to be built, to pertain evermore to the Bishop of Bethlehem and his successors. *Vide* copy of deed of gift to Bethlehem or "Bedlem" by Simon Fitz Mary, set out in Strype's Stow's 'Survey,' book ii. pp. 94, 95. At the request of John Mathei, called "de Norton," master of the house and order of the Military Brethren of St. Mary of Bethlehem, within the City of London, without Bishopsgate, and the brethren of the same, the said house and order were taken under the protection and patronage of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London in 1346. City Records, Letter Book F, fol. 128 *b*.

† A bishop without any see in England, but *in partibus infidelium*.

they would be unable to accomplish and to carry out successfully without the charitable assistance of the Mayor and Aldermen and other good folk of the said City; and moreover many were daily withdrawing their charity from the hospital by reason aforesaid. Desire him, therefore, to counsel the said bishop that the hospital be not let to farm without the common assent of the City. God Almighty have him in his keeping.

London, 10th March, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1366).

*French.*

**II. 17.** The same to the Very Reverend and Much Honoured Father in God the Bishop of "Bedlem" (Bethlehem).

On the same subject as the preceding letter; begging him not to let to farm the hospital of "Bedlem," which would result in great dishonour to himself and in the destruction of the hospital.

London, 9th March, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1366.

*French.*

**II. 18.** The same to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Henry Hangard, merchant of "Amyens" and general attorney of "Sire Johan Seuffuscien,"* Peter de Croy, and Peter Talmars, burgesses of the said city of "Amyens," by warrant of the common seal of the said city, had, according to the testimony of the Sheriffs of London, entered into a bargain with John Pykenham, citizen of London, in the town of "Gloucestre," and had purchased from him 200 pieces of woollen cloth of divers colours for 1,200*l.* sterling, whereupon each piece of cloth had been sealed with the seal of the said Henry, and a rebate of 520*l.* sterling allowed as owing by the said John Pykenham to the said merchants of Amiens, for which an acquittance had been given to him under the seal of the said Henry; and for the balance, amounting to

* In the next letter spelt "Seuffusicyen."

580*l.* (*sic*) sterling,* the said Henry was to give him or his attorney in London its equivalent in woad. This bargain had been made known to the writers by letter under the common seal of the town of "Gloucestre," and the said Henry had bound himself and his said masters, the merchants of "Amyens," to carry it out. The cloth was ready to be delivered in London according to agreement, but neither the said Henry nor his goods nor any of the goods of his masters aforesaid were to be found. Desire them, therefore, to assist the said John Pykenham in their country, that he might obtain payment if the said Henry or any one of the said merchants or any of their goods should be discovered to be within their jurisdiction, in such manner as they would wish to be treated in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 9th March, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1366.

*French.*

**II. 19.** The same to the Mayor and Echevins of the City of *Amyens* (Amiens).

A similar letter on the same subject.

London, 12th March, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1366.

*French.*

**II. 20.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Towns of Great *Jermuthe* (Yarmouth) and *Kyrkele* (Kirkley, co. Suffolk).

John de Blakeneye, citizen of London, had complained that whereas on the Feast of St. Katherine (25th November), in the fortieth year of the reign of King Edward III. (A.D. 1366), he had entered into an agreement with one Peter atte Dale of Great Yarmouth, whereby the said Peter undertook, with God's help, to convey safely to Bayonne or Bordeaux forty-one lasts of red herring belonging to the said John and to Richard Mos of Yarmouth, whereof twenty and a half lasts belonged to the said John, who had delivered the same to the

* The correct sum of £680 is mentioned in the next letter.

said Peter, paying the freight of 13*s.* a last to Bayonne and 9*s.* a last to Bordeaux:* the seamen on board the vessel had carried the same to Friesland, contrary to agreement, to the great injury of the said John de Blakeneye. They are, therefore, especially desired to compel the said Peter, by every legal method, to restore the said merchandise to the said John, or to pay him its value, together with damages for the loss incurred by the default, as the law merchant and the common law demand; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping and increase their honours.

London, 1st April, 41 (Edward III. A.D. 1367).

*French.*

**II. 21.** Power of attorney of William Waryn, citizen and draper of London, son (*sic*) and heir of William Waryn, late citizen and mercer of the same, who lately died at "Caleys," appointing John de Hethyngham, citizen and mercer of London, to recover in his name from Walter atte Bothe, a merchant of Scotland, all and singular debts which the said Walter ever owed to his aforesaid brother William. And forasmuch as his seal is unknown to many, he has caused the seal of the Mayoralty of the City of London to be affixed to these presents.

London, 27th April, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*Latin.*

**II. 22.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Bruges*, in Flanders.

Desiring them to assist, according to law and reason, the above John de "Hidingham," who is prosecuting Walter atte Bothe, a merchant of Scotland, in the name of William Waryn, citizen of London, brother and heir of William

* This seems to be the meaning of an obscure passage.

Waryn, who lately died at "Caleys," as by power of attorney sealed with the seal of the Mayoralty as well as the seal of the said William more plainly appears. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 27th April, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1367.

*French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Constable and Good Folk of the Town of *Caustone*, in the county of Norfolk, on behalf of Walter Eweyn, citizen of London, concerning Giles Julian, son of John Julia[n], his runaway apprentice, dated 17th April, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*Latin.*

II. 23. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Suthamptone* (Southampton).

Reminding them that they had already thrice* been written to concerning the distress they had taken from William Mapel, who was a freeman of the City of London, and therefore quit of all manner of custom throughout the King's dominion, and desiring them to cease from such outrageous annoyances in future, and to restore the distress they had already so taken, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier; or to certify the reason why they have so grievously distressed the said William, contrary to the liberties aforesaid.

London, 7th April, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*French.*

II. 24. Letters patent of John Lovekyn, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that John Romayns, of the ward of Castle Baynard, had been shown on trustworthy evidence to be the son and heir of William Romayns and of Juliana his

* *Vide supra*, II. 4.

wife, of the same ward, lately deceased, and to have been born in lawful wedlock; and that this had been confirmed by popular report in the said ward, and throughout the City and neighbouring places.

Chamber of the Guildhall, 25th May, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1367. *Latin.*

**II. 25.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Testifying that John Sexteyn, of "Fawkenham" (Fawkham), in the county of Kent, and John, son of Ralph Ketle, of the same place, had been bound apprentices to Alexander Wynter, citizen of London and "hurer,"* as by indentures enrolled more plainly appears; and that the said apprentices had run away, and were understood to be living in their town of "Caleys." They are, therefore, desired to assist the said Alexander to recover them, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 26th May, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367). *French.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Bristuyt* (Bristol) on behalf of John de Bathe, "webbe,"† concerning John, son of John le Brewere, his runaway apprentice, dated 29th May, 41 (Edward III.).

Also of one to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Canterbury* on behalf of John Clerk, concerning non-payment of custom, dated 5th June, 41 Edward (III.).

And of another sent to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Stanyng* (Stenning), in the county of Sussex, on behalf of Adam Fermer, "botiler," concerning John Thecchere, his runaway apprentice, dated 22nd June, 41 Edward III. *Latin.*

* *Vide, supra*, I. 77, note. † Weaver.

**II. 26.** John Lovekyn, Mayor of the City of London, to John Daldeby,* Prior of the Hospital Church of St. John the Baptist of Clerkenwell, near London, of exempt jurisdiction.

Humbly praying that it might please him to admit Richard Grafton, chaplain, to the perpetual chantry established therein by Sir William de Langeford, Knt., at the altar of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, now vacant, the presentation or donation to which had fallen to the said Mayor. The Most Highest preserve him.

Guildhall, London, 15th July, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*Latin.*

**II. 27.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the City of *Canterbris* (Canterbury).

Informing them that it had been shown on trustworthy evidence that one Henry Sprag, who had been arrested in their town, together with his goods and chattels, on suspicion, was a man of good repute and conversation, and had frequently before now brought divers merchandise from citizens of London. Desire them, therefore, to restore to him his goods and chattels and to do him no harm, in such manner as they would wish their requests to be respected in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 20th July, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

* According to Newcourt ('Repertorium,' vol. i. p. 669), John "Paveley" was prior from 1355 to 1371. The church was dedicated in 1185 by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, who was in England at the time preaching a crusade. The house or priory was the chief seat in England of the religious Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, and possessed great wealth. It was burnt down in 1381 by the Kentish rebels, but was afterwards rebuilt, the church being finished by Thomas Docwra, prior, *temp.* Henry VII. It is said that the lord prior was reckoned the premier baron of England. *Vide* Loftie's 'Hist. of London,' vol. ii. p. 176.

**II. 28.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of *Wilgrip'* ( ).

Certifying that on Thursday next before the Feast of St. Margaret (20th July), in the forty-first year of the reign of King Edward III. (A.D. 1367), John Heurer, master of the ship called "Alice of London," had arrived at the port of London called "Quenehete,"* and there discharged a cargo of 1,300 salt fish, to which testimony they are asked to give credence for love's sake.

London, Monday, the vigil of St. Margaret (20th July), 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367). *French.*

**II. 29.** The same to John atte Lee, Steward of the Lord the King.

Certifying that in respect of a large sum of money alleged to be due to one John Bere, carpenter, by William Neuport, fishmonger of London, the said William had been examined, and had declared that he owed nothing to the said John; but that he was willing, out of reverence for his lordship, to appear, together with the said John, before him, or those whom he should be pleased to appoint, in order that both parties might be heard, and that he was prepared to do what was reasonable, praying his good lordship to consider him guiltless of the charge aforesaid until default in him should be proved.

London, 18th August, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367). *French.*

* Queenhithe; one of the oldest, as also one of the most frequented docks in the port of London, rivalling in early days, if not surpassing, Billingsgate in the number of vessels charging and discharging there. By the feudal law all navigable rivers and havens were computed among the *regalia;* and the king, by virtue of his prerogative, assigned particular spots to be used as ports, and compelled vessels to put in there, to the exclusion of other places. This hithe or quay is said to have been granted by King John to Eleanor, wife of Henry II., and so came to be called *Ripa Reginæ*, the Queen's Bank or Queen's Hithe; but it is more probable that it had its name originally from "quern," *i. e.*, corn which was landed there, since we find the church now known as St. Michael Queenhithe to have been sometimes called St. Michael de "Cornhith." *Vide* Newcourt's

**II. 30.** Letters patent of John Lovekyn, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that William Mapel is a free citizen of the City of London, bearing scot and lot and other duties appertaining to a free citizen of the same, as in charters and privileges by the King* then reigning and by his predecessors granted to the citizens of the said City, and remaining in the custody of the writers, is more fully contained. In which charters, among other things, it is contained that the citizens of the said City shall be free and quit of all manner of customs and tolls throughout the King's dominion, as well on this side of the sea as beyond. All and singular persons, therefore, are asked to allow the said William and his servants to pass, with their goods and merchandise, without any demand being made for custom or toll.

London, 18th August, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*Latin.*

**II. 31.** Similar letters patent on behalf of William de Brickles, merchant and free citizen of the City of London.

London, 16th August, 41 Edward III. A.D. 1367.

*Latin.*

**II. 32.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of *Caleys* (Calais).

Certifying that Thomas, son of William Credil, had been bound apprentice to Thomas atte Nokette, citizen and draper of London, for a term of twelve years, and had suddenly left his master's service, and was understood to be residing in their town; and desiring them to assist the said Thomas atte Nokette, or his attorney, the bearer of these letters, to

'Repertorium,' vol. i. p. 487. It afterwards came into the possession of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., and was let to farm by him to the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London for 50*l.* a year, and 60*s.* to be paid to the infirm of St. Giles's without London. Kerr's Blackstone's 'Comment.,' vol. i. pp. 233-4; City Records, 'Liber de Antiquis,' fol. 66 *b.*

* Inspeximus Charter, dated 26th May, *anno* 15 Edward III.

recover possession of his said apprentice, in such manner as they would wish their request to be respected in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 28th August, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*French.*

**II. 33.** The same to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Alton*, in the County of "Hampton" (Hants).

Many trustworthy citizens of London had testified that a black horse and a grey horse, which had been seized in their town of Alton in the possession of John Patrik, servant of John Hardy, citizen of London, on suspicion, belonged to Ode Pascolf, of Tregony, and to no other person; and further that the said John Patrik obtained possession of them with his consent, and was a good man and loyal. Desire them, therefore, to give up the said horses to the said John Patrik, the bearer of these letters, and to none other, in such manner as they would wish their letters and requests to be respected in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 13th October, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

**II. 34.** Letters patent of James Andrew, Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London, under the Common Seal.

Notifying that a certain Gilbert Maghfeld, attorney of Richard de Euere, merchant of London, had freighted a ship at "Dansyk in Prucia,"* called "la Paschedache,"†

* Dantzic.

† The meaning of this is not clear; perhaps it="Easterday." The scribe got confused, for here he has inserted a "de" between "la Paschedache" and "Michaele Vandewale," and in the next letter the name of the ship appears as "le Michel Vande Wale" (which is, however, corrected in the next line), and "a la Paschedache" is the reading, which seems to denote the time of freighting.

Michael Vandewale being master, with divers merchandise to the value of 100*l.* sterling, to be carried to the said City of London, as by charter party between them made more evidently appears. The said Michael, however, had maliciously carried the said ship and merchandise to Scotland, against the wish of the said Gilbert, and to the great damage of his master's estate. All and singular persons, therefore, are asked to assist the said Gilbert to recover the said merchandise or its value from the said Michael and his associates on board the said vessel, as the law merchant and the common law require, and as they would wish their merchants to be treated in like case or weightier when transacting business in London.

London, 4th November, A.D. 1367. *Latin.*

A note of a letter having been sent to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Bedeford*, testifying that Simon atte [Strat]ford, "glovere," owed Stephen King, "girdeler," 40*s.*, and John Sturgeon, "pouchemakere," 23*s.*, dated 2nd September, 41 Edward III. (A.D. 1367). Names of witnesses to the above.

*Latin.*

**II. 35.** The Mayor and Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, and Good Folk of the Town of *Edenburgh.*

On the same subject. It was understood that the above Michael had sailed to the port of "Lythe" (Leith), and afterwards had gone to their town of "Edenburgh," and had there sold the merchandise mentioned above to good men of their town. Desire them, therefore, to assist the aforesaid Richard de Euere to recover the same or its value, in such manner as they would wish to be treated in like case or weightier. God Almighty have them ever in his keeping.

London, 3rd November, A.D. 1367. *French.*

**II. 36.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of Great *Fernemouthe* (Yarmouth).

John Longeneye, citizen and fishmonger of London, executor of the will of Stephen de Gloucester, late fishmonger of the same, had acknowledged before the writers that the said Stephen, when alive, was indebted to Bartholomew Nogan, of the town of Great Yarmouth, in the sum of 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling for merchandise bought of him at divers times; for which sum the said John Longeneye would be compelled to give satisfaction to the said Bartholomew, if he brought his suit against him before the goods of the testator were fully administered. They are desired, therefore, for love's sake not to seize the merchandise of John de Blakeneye, citizen of London, for the debt aforesaid, inasmuch as he never was indebted to the said Bartholomew, according to information received from the said John Longeneye. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 9th November, 41 (Edward III. A.D. 1367).

*French.*

**II. 37.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the City of *Salesbirs* (Salisbury).

Informing them that John de Leye (?)* had suddenly left the service of William Comberton, citizen of London, with whom he ought to have remained for a term of one year, and was understood to be living in their city of "Salesbirs"; and desiring them to assist the said William to recover possession of him, in such manner as they would wish their requests to be respected in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

London, 13th November, 41 (Edward III. A.D. 1367).

*French.*

* Some portion of this letter has been destroyed; apparently the effect of damp.

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* SIMON DE MORDON, MAYOR, *anno* 43 [Edward III. A.D. 1368—9].

**II. 38.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that it had been proved in full Husting, by Geffrey,* the parson of the church of St. Margaret in Friday Street, William Sprynget, Stephen Grigge, John Kent, cordwainer, William Dru, and William Coton, good folk of the said City, that Dame Maude Lercedekene, the particulars of whose decease had given rise to dispute in the county of Devon, had died in the said parish of St. Margaret about midnight† next following the Feast of St. Giles (1st September) last past.

London, 23rd November, *s.a.* *French.*

**II. 39.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Notyngham* (Nottingham).

Certifying that it had been proved on oath that Alice, the wife of John Bole, "upholdere,"‡ citizen of London, is daughter and heir of Thomas de Lynton, of "Notyngham," and of Alice his wife, whose marriage was celebrated in the church of St. Swithin, Candlewick Street; and desiring them to assist the said John Bole and Alice his wife to recover what rightly belongs to them.

London, 21st March, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 136$\frac{8}{9}$).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

**II. 40.** Letters patent of the same under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that whereas John Pykenham the younger,

* Geffrey le Spenser is mentioned by Newcourt as being parson of this church in 1352. 'Repertorium,' vol. i. p. 403.

† *En la quart' demy noet.* ‡ Upholsterer.

merchant of London, should have delivered at London 23 tuns of woad, such as Elys de Claye and John Quycham have at the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, for which they were to pay the said John Pykenham 160 *livres* at the Ides on this side of the coming Easter, and 260 *livres* by three equal instalments in the year following, as by indenture between them made is more fully contained; the said Elys and John had come to London, and had there waited eight days for the delivery of the said woad, so as to fulfil their part of the contract, and had frequently applied for the same at the house of the said John Pykenham, as had been clearly proved. This certificate is, therefore, made at their request.

London, 23rd March, *s.a.* *French.*

**II. 41.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to John de Aylesbury, Sheriff of Bedford and Buckingham.

Desiring him to assist John Walraven, "chapeler"* of London, to recover possession of Geffrey Masselyn, son of John Masselyn, of "Trilleghe" (Thurleigh), in the county of Bedford, his apprentice, bound to him for a term of eight years, who had run away without permission, and was now understood to be residing at "Thrylleghe" in his bailiwick.

London, 24th March, 43 Edward III. (A.D. $136\frac{8}{9}$).
*French.*

**II. 42.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Jernemuthe* (Yarmouth).

Richard de Preston, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he had a ship called "the Thomas" of London, laden with divers merchandise for Bordeaux, there had come John Aleyn, master of a ship belonging to Bartholomew Nogan, of Yarmouth, who had maliciously

* Cap-maker.

run it down at "Conkettesnasse,"* in Brittany, in order to sink it, and had caused it so much damage that it could not serve for another voyage, to the loss to the said Richard of 400 *livres*, as could be truly proved. A small sum of money had been offered by the said Bartholomew for his trespass, but not equal to the loss sustained by the said Richard. They are, therefore, desired to cause justice to be done, inasmuch as the said Richard had lost his voyages for the last year and the present year, and moreover the longer his ship lay unrepaired, the greater compensation would have to be paid by the said Bartholomew. Request them to cause an early reply to be sent.

London, 28th November, *s.a.* *French.*

[The following words are here inserted: "Consimilis litera come autrefoitz," probably referring to Letter No. 47, *infra*.]

**II. 43.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor of *Nouel Chastel* (Newcastle) *on Tyne.*

Henry Brod, citizen and skinner of London, had complained that whereas Nicholas Brod, his son, being servant to one John Touyle, of London, had gone with his master to Newcastle, where his master had purchased certain goods of William de Acton, at that time Mayor of the town, for which he had given a bond for 88 marks; the said Nicholas had, at his master's request, taken and carried the same to London, where he had been engaged by Alice, wife of Aleyn de Carlille, of Cornhill, to go to "Escote" (Scotland). On his returning thence the said William de Acton had caused him to be arrested near Newcastle, and thrown into prison for the payment of the sum aforesaid, although he had been no party to the contract entered into by the aforesaid John. He is, therefore, desired to cause him to be released from prison, if it was for this cause that he had been confined for ten weeks or more,

* Le Conquêt, a seaport in Brittany, near Brest.

as was understood, contrary to law and reason; and if for any other cause, he is to let them know as soon as possible the nature of it.

London, 15th November, *s.a.* *French.*

**II. 44.** Letters patent (of the same), under the seal of the Mayoralty.

Certifying that Margaret, widow of Robert Leget, John Southam, Nicholas Godessone, and Adam Craft, executors of the will of the said Robert, had appointed John Fraunceys to be their attorney to recover from Jacob Mey, of "Brugys" (Bruges), all debts owing to the said Robert.

No date. *French.*

**II. 45.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Good Folk of the Town of *Saresbris* (Salisbury).

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty the enrolment of a deed* whereby Henry Chark and Edith his wife, widow of William Nyweman, tanner, granted to Hugh Stalbrugge a messuage in "le Endelerstrete" in the city of New Sarum, to have and to hold to the said Hugh, his heirs and assigns, for ever, as in the said deed more fully is contained.

London, 16th April, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369). *French.*

*Temp.* SIMON DE MORDON, MAYOR, 43 [Edward III. A.D. 1368—9], *continued.*

**II. 46.** James Andrew, Mayor of the City of London, to the Burgomasters and Echevins of the Town of *Brugges* (Bruges).

Had been informed by Agnes and Alice, orphans, daughters of Geffrey Boner, "paternostrer,"† late citizen of London, that an action had been commenced against them by Isabel, their sister, another daughter of the same, to

* Hust. Roll No. 97 (33).

† Maker of *paternosters* or rosaries.

recover her share of the tenements possessed by their late father in the town of Bruges, to the great prejudice of the said Agnes and Alice, inasmuch as the said Isabel had already been advanced by her said father and Elena his wife on her marriage, and these tenements, therefore, ought to remain to the said Agnes and Alice, according to the laws and customs* of the town of Bruges, as was understood. Certifies, at the request of the said Agnes and Alice, that inquiry had been made upon oath of good men of the City of London cognisant of the matter, who had declared that the said Geffrey had three daughters, to wit, the aforesaid Isabel, Agnes, and Alice, and that in order to marry the said Isabel befittingly the said Geffrey had bought the ward and marriage of one John Hockele, who had lands and tenements in the City of London to the value of 16 marks by the year, from one Thomas, of London, clerk, for which he had paid 40 marks and a "hanape" of "maser," worth 13*s.* 4*d.*, the said Isabel being at that time about sixteen years of age; that the said John and Isabel were married, and the said Geffrey and Elena had given them goods and chattels to the value of 9 *livres*, together with the rent of the aforesaid lands and tenements; that thus was the said Isabel advanced. Desires them, therefore, to see justice done to the said Agnes and Alice in the matter, according to their laws and customs, in such manner as they would wish their requests to be respected in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in His keeping.

No date. *French.*

* A similar custom prevailed in the City of London, namely, that if a father advanced any of his children with a part of his goods, that child was barred against demanding any further portion of the father's customary estate at his decease, unless the father had expressed by writing under his hand or by his last will that such advancement was only *in part*, in which case the child so partly advanced could claim a further share after bringing the money already received into hotchpot. Bohun's 'Privileg. Lond.,' p. 318; City Records, Rep. 103, fol. 236 *seq.*, where a certificate of the custom of the City of London is recorded by order of the Court of Chancery, in a case of Chase and wife *v.* Box.

**II. 47.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Jernemuthe* (Yarmouth).

On the same subject as II. 42, *supra.*

*French.*

**II. 48.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Reverend and Noble Patriarch of Aquileia.*

Certifying under the seal of the Mayoralty that whereas he had desired to be informed respecting a suit brought before them by "Nigrus Lotys de Vynsona" against John, Count "de Purcean,"† for a debt of 700 marks, borrowed by him as appears by a writing obligatory of himself and the Lord Hubert "de Careris," Peter, Lord "Dargeville," and Lord John "de Aldersellis," whereby they stood jointly and severally bound; the said suit had been stayed till further notice by order of the King's Chancellor, inasmuch as the said Chancellor had heard that an action for the same debt was pending in the Court of Rome, and that the said Count "de Purcean" still remained a hostage.

London, 15th November, 42 Edward III. (A.D. 1368).

*Latin.*

**II. 49.** The same to Sir Fulk de Bermyngeham.

Robert Mympe, drover, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he was a freeman of the said City, and therefore quit of paying custom and toll for his merchandise throughout the King's dominion, toll had been demanded of him for his beasts when brought within the seignory of Sir Fulk, which was to the prejudice of the franchise of the said City. Desire, therefore, that the said

* Marquard Randeck, surnamed *Nordling.*

† Jean de Chastillon, Comte de Portien, or Porteyn, one of the French nobles held as hostages in England for the King of France after the treaty of Bretigni. Rymer's 'Fœdera,' vol. iii. part i. p. 515; *ibid.*, part ii. p. 1043.

Robert and his sureties may be discharged, and that no such custom and toll be demanded in the future.

London, 22nd September, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 50.** The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London to the Mayor and Echevins of *Amyens* (Amiens).

Informing them that John de Stodeye had complained that whereas John de Truseux and "Tebaud" de Truseux, merchants of "Amyens," were bound to him in the sum of 88*l.* 8*s.*, which they ought to have paid him in London at Christmas last; and that whereas John de Truseux and William Moret, merchants of "Amyens," were likewise bound to him in the sum of 112*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, which they ought to have paid him on the 15th day of July last past, neither of these sums had been paid him, to his great loss. Desire them, therefore, to compel the said John de Truseux, "Tebaud" de Truseux, and William Moret by all legal and reasonable means to pay the said John de Stodeye the sums aforesaid as soon as possible, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**II. 51.** The same to the Stewards of *Lewes* and *Brembre* (Bramber, co. Sussex).

John Philipot, Esmond Oliver, and Thomas Vylers, merchants of the City of London, had complained that distress had been levied for "Rivage"* and "Pountage"† on their merchandise passing through the bailiwick of the said stewards, which was contrary to the franchise of the said City. Desire them, therefore, to restore the distress so taken, and to suffer them to pass without paying toll on the said merchandise or on any other which they should bring through the said bailiwick;

* Toll for passing along a river.

† Toll for crossing a bridge.

in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

No date. *French.*

**II. 52.** Letters patent of the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the City of London.

Certifying under their Common Seal that William Strete, "botiller" of the lord the King, had proved before them, upon his oath and upon the oaths of John Chichestre, Robert de la More, and Geffrey Neuton, of London, that 12 "sarplers" of wool which had been seized at "Sweynesseie en Goer" (Swansea in Gower, Wales), at the suit of one Janyn Laurenz, of "Kermerdyn" (Caermarthen), by covine of Richard Scurlag and Robynet Penbrigge and many others, were at the time and still are the property of the said William and of none other. In these "sarplers" were packed 665 stone of wool, each stone weighing 16 pounds, of the value of 254*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* sterling, irrespective of the costs and damages incurred by the said William by reason of the said seizure.

London, 16th April, 43 Edward III. (1369). *French.*

**II. 53.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Very Reverend Father in God (Nicholas Littlington), Abbot of Westminster.*

Informing him that John Broke, "hurer," citizen of London, had complained that Robert Hilton, of "Chestre,"

* Abbot 1362–1386. His name is still preserved in the 'Littlington Missal,' one of his many bequests to the Abbey. The 'Liber Regalis,' which prescribed the order for the ceremony of the coronation of Richard II., and has continued to be the basis of all subsequent coronations, was drawn up by him. He also rebuilt or built the Abbot's house (the present Deanery), a great portion of the cloisters, and other parts of the conventual buildings which have since perished; as also the "Jerusalem Chamber," probably so called from its being decorated with tapestries or pictures of the history of Jerusalem, just as the "Antioch Chamber" acquired its name from pictures representing the siege of Antioch by the Crusaders. Stanley's 'Memorials of Westminster Abbey,' pp. 68, 377, 402; Loftie's 'Hist. of London,' vol. ii. p. 53; Newcourt's 'Repertorium,' vol. i. p. 716, note.

who had been enrolled as his apprentice in the Guildhall of London, according to the custom of the said City, to serve him for a term of three years, had maliciously left his service, and was living within the Abbey of Westminster, so that he was unable to recover possession of him, whereby a dangerous example is set for other apprentices in the said City in time to come, unless a remedy should be provided. Might it please his lordship, therefore, to command his servants in the said Abbey to deliver up the said apprentice to his master, who was willing to pay anything that might be owing on his behalf. The Holy Spirit preserve him and increase his honours.

London, 26th May, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369). *French.*

*Temp.* SIMON DE MORDON, MAYOR, *anno* 43 [Edward III. A.D. 1368—9], *continued.*

**II. 54.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Thakstede* (co. Essex).

Desiring them to assist William Cave, citizen of London, to recover possession of John Croulond, of "Trumpetone" (Trumpington), in the county of Cambridge, who had been bound to him as apprentice for a term of eight years, and had run away, and was understood to be residing in their town; in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case or weightier. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

15th June, *s.a.* *French.*

**II. 55.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Swathelinge* (co. South Hants?).

Had been informed by James Castelete that they had seized his horse, of a mouse-dun colour,* with a black fore-

* *Un cheval colour mous don ou un noir liste.* Dun was formerly the name of a horse or jade, *e.g.*, "To draw Dun out of the mire." "Dun is the mouse" was a proverbial saying of rather vague signification, but probably alluding, as here, to the colour of the mouse. Halliwell's 'Archaic Dict.'

head, which he had purchased in open market in Smithfield, on Friday next before the Feast of St. Barnabas (11th June) last past, from John Costantyn, citizen of London, in the presence of Hugh Avenel, Bailiff of Smithfield, to whom he paid his toll for the same, as the said bailiff and the said John Costantyn and many others had certified. Desire them, therefore, to restore the same to the said James, as reason demands, without further delay, in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case. The Holy Spirit keep them.

London, 16th June, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 56.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the City of *Cauntebirs* (Canterbury).

William Daberoun, citizen of London, had complained that whereas he had lent a horse, "don,"* with a black forehead, to Hugh Reyner, to ride thereon to the coast [with] the Duke of Lancaster, which he had purchased from Paul, the servant of William de Harwedone, at Smithfield, in the presence of good men, for the sum of 11*s.*, the said Paul having purchased the same from Thomas, servant to Nicholas Thamworthe, Knt., as the said Thomas had testified before Adam (Wymondham), Sheriff of the City of London; the said horse had been seized by their bailiffs, and the journey of the said Hugh interrupted. Desire them to restore the same to the said Hugh, who had been proved to be its rightful owner, that he might be no longer hindered on his way; in such manner as they would wish their folk to be treated in like case. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

London, — June, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

* *Vide* preceding letter, note.

**II. 57.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Maydenstone* (Maidstone).

Desiring them to give up one John Lykhom, brewer, who had unlawfully left the service of Thomas atte Ram, brewer, and was now living in their town; in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case, and so that the said Thomas might have no occasion to complain elsewhere.

London, 4th July, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369). *French.*

**II. 58.** The same to the Bailiffs and Good Folk of the Town of *Ware.*

John de Lyncoln, "corsour"* and citizen of London, had complained that one "Marione de Clyf," who had agreed to serve him for a term of one year, had left his service without leave or reasonable cause, and was now residing in their town. Desire them to deliver her up to the said John, in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

London, 26th July, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).
*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.
*Latin.*

**II. 59.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Exenford* (Oxford).

Concerning a debt of 8*l.* sterling due to Simon de Mordone, citizen of London, by Robert de Croidone.

Date illegible. *French.*

**II. 60.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Langele* (Langley).

Desiring them to deliver up one John Prest the younger, of "Glastenbury" (co. Somerset), who had been bound

* A horse dealer.

apprentice to William Everstrete, tailor and citizen of London, and had left his service without leave or reasonable cause, and was now understood to be concealing himself in their bailiwick; in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case, and so that the said William might have no occasion to complain elsewhere.

London, 27th July, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).
*French.*

**II. 61.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Nouel Chastel* (Newcastle) *upon Tyne.*

William Bristowe and John Cros, grocers and citizens of London, had complained of being distrained upon for payment of toll and custom for their goods. Inasmuch as they are freemen of the said City, they are by franchise quit of all manner of custom throughout the realm of England. Desire, therefore, that their goods might be restored to them, and that they might be suffered to pass quit of toll and custom, that they might not have cause for further complaint, in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 30th July, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369).
*French.*

**II. 62.** The same to the Bailiffs, Constables, and Good Folk of the Town of *Hicchen* (Hitchin, co. Herts).

Whereas Geffrey de Roxstone, of London, butcher, had complained that when he was taking some cattle to the town of St. "Need" (St. Neots, co. Huntingdon), to wit, five oxen and forty-two sheep, the same had been seized on suspicion when passing through their town: it had been established, upon the oaths of Richard Stonham, Henry Asselyn, Stephen atte Forthe, John Sprot, Elys de Westone, "bochers," and other good men of the City of London,

that the said Geffrey was a good man and loyal, and that the said beasts were his own property, having been purchased in open market at Smithfield. Desire them, therefore, to cause the same to be restored to him, in such manner as they would wish a request of theirs to be respected in like case. The Holy Spirit have them in his keeping.

London, 7th August, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

**II. 63.** The same to John Hynxstworthe, Sheriff of Essex and Hertford.

Desiring him for love's sake to assist Richard Serle, citizen and currier of London, to recover possession of Robert Wolmere, of Bishops Hatfield (co. Herts), who had been bound his apprentice for a term of eight years, but had left his service without leave or reasonable cause, and was now understood to be residing in Bishops Hatfield; in such manner as he would wish a request of his to be respected in like case. The Holy Spirit have him ever in his keeping.

London, 8th August, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 64.** The same to Sir Fulk de Bermyngeham and his Companions, Arrayers of men-at-arms, in the County of Buckingham.

Certifying that whereas they had arrayed William de Nafferton among the men-at-arms of the said county for lands and tenements which he possessed within the same, he had already been arrayed among the men-at-arms of the City of London.

London, 17th August, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369).

*French.*

## LETTERS SENT *temp.* JOHN DE CHICHESTRE, MAYOR, *anno* 43 [Edward III. A.D. 1369—70].

**II. 65.** The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the City of *Canterbirs* (Canterbury).

Informing them that Alice, widow of Simon de London, late draper, was a freeman* of the City of London, and, therefore, quit of all manner of custom and toll throughout the realm of England, and desiring them to deliver up the goods which they had seized, belonging to her, in the hands of her servant, John Notekyn, of "Brandon fery," in the county of Suffolk, who had been bound apprentice to John de Norton, citizen and draper of London, for a term of seven years, and whose term of apprenticeship had been afterwards sold by him to the said Simon, according to the custom† of the City of London.

London, 5th November, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 66.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Redynges* (Reading).

Simon de Mordon and Richard Grace, of London, stockfishmonger, had complained that whereas divers goods and chattels of John Prentys de Redinges, "diere," had been seized, at their suit, for debt, and that some time had since elapsed, owing to the said John being unwilling to appear and to answer the said Simon and Richard in respect of the said debt; and whereas they had frequently requested that, according to the custom of England and of the law merchant, such goods should be placed in their hands; this nevertheless had not been done, to the great delay of their suit and to

* *Franche homme.*

† "The custom of London is to turn over an apprentice from one to another; and he to whom such apprentice is turned over may have action of covenant upon special issues on the several breaches assigned....."—Bohun's 'Privilegia Londini,' p. 176.

their great loss. Desire, therefore, that the said goods might be delivered to them as quickly as possible, that they be not longer delayed, nor have occasion to complain elsewhere.

London, 12th November, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 67.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Excestre* (Exeter).

Desiring them to restore to Nicholas Donat, citizen of London, the goods which they had seized for payment of custom, inasmuch as he, being a freeman of the said City, is quit of all manner of toll or custom throughout the realm of England; in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case.

London, 12th November, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 68.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of *Bristoll.*

John Dovy, Richard Northbury, and Thomas de Estone, citizens of London, had complained that Hugh fitz Gyles, of "Nicole" (Lincoln), owed them divers sums of money, which he ought to have paid some time since. He was now understood to be in their bailiwick to sell his merchandise. Desire them, therefore, to enforce the payment of the debts aforesaid, and to receive Thomas de Estone, who had been appointed by the said John Dovy and Richard Northbury their attorney to prosecute the said Hugh in their name, in such manner as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case. The Holy Spirit have them ever in his keeping.

London, 14th December, 43 Edward III. (A.D. 1369).

*French.*

**II. 69.** The same to the Bailiffs of the Town of *Roucestre* (Rochester).

William Gentyl, haberdasher and citizen of London, had complained that a hanap of maser belonging to him, of

silver gilt, together with a "bursele"* and an image of St. Katherine enamelled, had been seized in the possession of John de Canterbery, to whom he had entrusted the said hanap in London. It had been proved upon oath that the said hanap was the proper chattel of the said William, to whom they are requested, for love's sake, to restore it, as they would themselves wish to be treated in like case.

London, 29th December, 43 (Edward III. A.D. 1369).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

**II. 70.** The same to the Reverend Father in God (Robert de Faversham), Abbot of Feversham (co. Kent).

John de Cockfeld, citizen of London, had complained that his goods had been seized by the Abbot's officers at the suit of one William Meryweder, to whom the said John owed nothing, and a general acquittance made by the said William at London to the said John had been produced. Desire him, therefore, to command his aforesaid officers not to detain the said John at the suit of the said William, contrary to the acquittance aforesaid, and to restore his goods, as reason demands. The Holy Spirit have him ever in his keeping.

London, 7th January, 43 Edward III. (A.D. $13\frac{69}{70}$).

*French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter; and a note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town of *Feversham.* *Latin.*

**II. 71.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Nicole* (Lincoln).

Desiring them to give up to Richard Rose, tailor, a black horse, which he had let to hire at London to Friar Benet,

* Query a Papal bull.

"perdoner* del hautepas,"† to ride thereon as far as their town, to be restored to its owner on his return; and which they had seized at the suit of Nicholas Werk for a debt which he demanded of the said friar, the same being the proper chattel of the said Richard, as had been proved.

No date. *French.*

Here follow the names of witnesses to the above letter.

*Latin.*

**II. 72.** The same to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town of *Feversham* (co. Kent).

Desiring them for love's sake to give up to John Cocfeld, citizen of London, his goods which had been seized at the suit of William Miriweder, from whom he had received a general acquittance at London in bar of action; to which the said William, however, had pleaded that at the time of the acquittance being given he was suffering imprisonment at the hands of the said John. This plea could not by law be considered by them.

London, 18th January, 43 Edward III. (A.D. $13\frac{69}{70}$).

*French.*

* A pardoner, or ecclesiastic having authority from the head of the Church of Rome to travel abroad for the purpose of selling pardons or indulgences, the proceeds of such sales being usually devoted to some special purpose. His character forms the subject of one of Chaucer's liveliest descriptions ('Canterbury Tales,' Prologue, 671–716). The expedients resorted to by these itinerants, who travelled throughout the country with their wallets

"Bretful of pardons come from Rome al hote,"

and extorted money from the ignorant by practising upon their superstitious fears, were condemned by several councils of the Church; and by statute 22 Hen. VIII. c. 12, all proctors and pardoners travelling in England without sufficient authority were to be treated as vagabonds.

† Or *halpace*, a raised platform or daïs; but its meaning in the City Records sometimes extends to a room or floor raised on pillars over a portion of the street. *Vide* Glossary to 'Liber Albus' (Master of the Rolls Series), and Riley's 'Memorials,' pp. 453, 600.

A note of a similar letter having been sent to the Mayor and Bailiffs of.....* on behalf of the said John de Cocfeld, dated London, 11th ....., 43 (Edward III.).

*Latin.*

**II. 73.** Letters patent of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, under the Common Seal.

On the same subject as II. 52. Certifying that William Strete, "botiler" of the lord the King, had proved before them upon oath that certain goods which had been seized at "Swessnysseye en Gower" (Swansea in Gower, Wales), at the suit of one (Janyn Laurenz) of "Kermerdyn" (Caermarthen), belonged to him and to none other.

London, 15th April, 44 Edward III. A.D. 1370.

*French.*

* Illegible.

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